

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Aug. 23, 2019
Volume 31, Issue 16
Est. 1989

Town Crier

Friday flicks to show

'Incredibles 2' at Whitney

Friday Night Flicks, sponsored by City of St. Cloud Park and Recreation, will show "Incredibles 2," during family night, Aug. 23. Rain site will be Whitney Rec Center. This free event will have concessions available for purchase.

Delivery driver wanted

The Newsleaders is looking to immediately hiring a driver for every other Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Must have clean driving record and a Minnesota license. Contact Janelle at janellev@thenewsleaders.com or call 320-363-7741 Option 1.

Volunteer in the food shelf

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

Donate your extra garden veggies

Donate your extra produce from your garden to your local food shelf. Favorites include carrots, zucchini, beans, beets, kohlrabi, corn, potatoes, cabbage, peppers, onions and asparagus. Any produce that has a longer shelf life is accepted. Contact: Catholic Charities Emergency Services 320-229-4560; CROSS Center 320-968-7012; or The Salvation Army 320-252-4552.

Sign up for United Way Day of Caring Sept. 19

United Way of Central Minnesota will host Day of Caring on Thursday, Sept. 19. Day of Caring brings people together to volunteer on community projects to increase awareness to the needs of our community. Volunteers get a free T-shirt, breakfast and lunch. Project sign-up will be available online until Friday, Sept. 6. Visit www.unitedwayhelps.org to register.

INSERT:
Sliced
on College Avenue



photo by Mike Knaak

End of the road

When 300 bicyclists returned to St. Joseph from four days on the road, they found their packed bags neatly lined up at the College of St. Benedict. After leaving St. Joseph on Aug. 15, the riders toured Sauk Centre, Spicer and Hutchinson. Meet some of the riders and hear about their adventures on Page 4.

Sheriff aims to improve communications

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Stearns County Sheriff's Department has initiated several ambitious programs designed to bring together all department personnel, to expand contacts with residents and other law-enforcement agencies, to enhance employee wellness and to promote recruitment – all with the ultimate goal of strengthening public safety and protection.

While at the Stearns County County Fair in Sauk Centre, during a break from meeting

fair-goers, Stearns County Sheriff Steve Soyka talked about the initiatives.

Strengthening bonds

A law enforcement study in 2017, Soyka said, revealed there are some tensions among the administrative levels from department to department, city to city. Those tensions, Soyka said he believes, are largely the result



Soyka

of misunderstandings and miscommunications. Part of the new initiative is to improve communications both within the sheriff's department and to create a sense of unity and togetherness with police departments and other agencies that impinge upon law enforcement – fire-and-rescue, judicial, mental health and so forth.

That outreach communication effort, Soyka said, includes creating unity, equality and a democratization process within the sheriff's department. All aspects of the department (deputies, dispatchers, records-keep-

ers, jail personnel) will have a chance to meet the public to share what they do and to engage the public in question-answer sessions. The initiative is called the "Community Sheriff Engagement Team."

Soyka said he is pleased that of the department's 200 employees 50 of them have volunteered to do various public-outreach projects, including two women jail employees who spoke with visitors at the Stearns County Fair in Sauk Centre. Other factions that meet with the public and/or do demon-

Programs • page 3

Verbal ping-pong reigns at 'Squiggle Farkle'

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

They call the game Squiggle Farkle, but anyone who hears the group of people huddled in the southeast corner of the Local Blend would swear they're playing not a dice game but fast-and-furious verbal ping-pong.

They sound like a bunch of lippy overgrown kids being given a time-out in the corner.

Between rolls of the dice, zinging phrases ping-pong back and forth – wisecracks, mock insults, teasing taunts, cheeky challenges, bloated braggadocio. The lippy

players are having a blast.

"Sounds like Jeff is being a hot shot this morning," one of the players says.

"Hot shot?" asks another. "No, he's not a hot shot, he's being a hot head. Again."

Ripples of laughter follow, as Jeff gives a poor-old-me, put-upon look.

"Your wife is such a sweetheart," one guy says to the man at his left.

"Is she?" the score-keeping husband asks with mock surprise, casting a teasing-but-mock-wary look at his wife as she gets ready

Farkle • page 2



photo by Dennis Dalman

Squiggle Farkle players gather at the Local Blend. From left to right are Jeff Young, Kevin Schirmers, Jen Detert, Galen Keyes and Ross Detert.

Farkle

from front page

to toss the dice.

The players on that particular early August morning were Galen Keyes, a retired computer and marketing worker; Jeff Young, a retired St. Joseph police officer; Kevin Schirmers, retired sales-department employee for Bernick's beverage company; Jen Detert, a physician's assistant and retired U.S. Army major who did a tour of duty in Iraq; and her husband, Ross, a semi-retired construction expert and all-round handyman. All five of those players are St. Joseph residents.

Other sometime-participants include Art Novak, retired owner of a travel business and Vietnam veteran; Richard Loso, retired grocery-store owner; Pete Jansky, retired St. Joseph police chief; Keith Gruber, Byerly's grocery store manager; Steve Johnson, sales manager for MidCo Cable; the late Ken Twit, St. Joseph pharmacist and city council member; and – through the years – many "Johnnies" and "Bennies" from St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict. In all, about 35 people have participated in the ongoing farkle game, some quite frequently, others just now and then. Savannah Pierson, a graduate of St. Cloud State University, loves to play Squiggle Farkle with the gang and does frequent fun postings about the players and their verbal badinage on Facebook.

For at least 15 years, those people and others have been meeting at the Local Blend in St. Joseph, always sitting at the same table in the same corner, tossing dice, flinging remarks. It's become a morning tradition six days a week, a kind of extended family. The "Squiggle" moniker of the farkle dice game derives from the name of a flavored iced-coffee drink served at the Local Blend.

30-year tradition

Some of the players go back as long as 30 years ago when the Local Blend was a pizza joint called Herk's Pizza.

"We're not a club or anything," Keyes said. "It's just whoever shows up. Stacie En-



photo by Dennis Dalman

Jeff Young grabs dice to toss during a Squiggle Farkle game at the Local Blend in St. Joseph.

gholm, the owner of the Local Blend, always lets us sit in the southeast corner, every morning."

"It's a way for us to have our morning laughs," Schirmers said. "We like to start our day with laughter."

"We have a no-politics rule at the table," said Keyes, a sly smile forming on his face. "And that is the major rule that we ignore."

"Yes, and they call me the token liberal," moped Young with a mock hang-dog frown.

"We like to pick on Jeff," said Ross Detert.

"You can say that again!" Young practically shouted.

Young is one of the longest-time players – about 30 years.

Anywhere from five people to as many as 10 will show up for Squiggle Farkle on any given morning. Some, Keyes said, cannot show up because of jobs or busy lifestyles.

Affection and loyalty

Much as they love to razz one another, there is a bond of affection and loyalty among the players. They even attended the graduations and weddings of two Bennies, who then moved to other places. But a few students, when visiting back in St. Joseph, stop in to play.

The "old-timers," when they re-appear out of the blue, are always a cause for celebration and delight to the more-regular players.

"Not too long ago, a Bennie stopped in to play for old-time's sake," Schirmers said. "She just happened to be in town that morning."

"Camaraderie" is Schirmers' favorite reason for playing Squiggle Farkle and the rapid-fire conversations it unleashes. Through the many years, the many games, players have gotten to know one another's history, their families, their jobs, their personal milestones, their joys and, yes, sadly even some sorrows.

"We really are a kind of big family," Schirmers said. "Our conversations run the gamut."

And then, to be sure, there's that iron-clad rule of "no politics," which all too often players are eager to ignore.

"Some of us kind of cringe when politics comes up because we know a war is about to start," said Schirmers, laughing.

But – usually anyway – it's a good war, a fun war, and the players have a chance to start their day with laughter. And yes, even politics, that toxic topic, can sometimes raise a laugh or two.

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.

July 2

11:48 a.m. Collision. Minnesota Street E and Second Avenue NE. A vehicle westbound on Minnesota Street rear-ended another vehicle which then rear-ended a vehicle waiting to turn left onto Second Street SE. There were no injuries.

5:11 p.m. Collision. Pearl Drive. A driver was heading south on Pearl Drive and looked down to put on his seatbelt. When he looked up, a vehicle was turning in front of him. The second vehicle was turning left into a business. The driver of the first vehicle and a passenger in the second vehicle reported injuries.

July 3

1:17 a.m. Property damage. College Avenue N. The La Playette bartender reported two outdoor banners have been ripped off the building and damaged. The bartender suspected an impaired man who had left the bar angry might have done the damage.

July 4

11:48 a.m. Collision. Minnesota Street E. and 12th Avenue SE. A crash was reported just south of Minnesota Street E on 12th Avenue. The first vehicle backed into the second vehicle. The officer did not see damage to either vehicle.

July 8

5:24 p.m. Collision. Baker Street E. and Minnesota Street. The first vehicle was making a left turn from Minnesota Street into the Kwik Trip parking lot and struck a second vehicle going west on Minnesota Street.

July 11

5:38 p.m. Collision. College Avenue N. and Dale Street W. The first vehicle pulled to the east curb north of intersection. A second vehicle was making a left turn and did not see the first vehicle and the two vehicles collided.

July 16

6:02 p.m. Theft from vehicle. Schneider Drive. A woman reported her rear license plate was stolen while she was at her daughter's house in St. Joseph.

July 17

10:22 a.m. Fraud. Graceview Loop. A man reported fraud activity on his Wells Fargo account after someone called the bank pretending to be him and changed some account information. Then a \$299 charge was made to his account.

July 20

12:48 a.m. Fire. CR 2. An officer saw a large fire in a field just north of Jasmine Lane on CR 2. The homeowner was unaware he needed a permit. A number of people were gathered around the fire. The owner was warned and told where and how to obtain a permit.

July 25

1:41 a.m. Crash. CR 75 and CR 134. A car hit a deer on CR 75 and CR 134. The vehicle was damaged and the officer put down the injured deer.

July 30

12:19 p.m. Theft. Seventh Avenue NE. A woman reported a package had been stolen off her steps before UPS could pick it up. The package contents were valued at \$125.

Aug. 8

10:30 p.m. Collision. Elm Street E. A two-vehicle collision was reported at McDonald's. The first vehicle backed into the second vehicle in the drive thru. The accident happened on private property and there were no signs of impairment from either driver. The officer assisted the drivers with exchanging information.

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

Reaching Everybody!
Newsleaders

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Kay's Kitchen
Kwik Trip

Local Blend
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St. Joseph Newsleader Office
Sliced on College Ave.
Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict
SuperAmerica

www.thenewsleaders.com

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People



contributed photo

Jeff Muzik (right) of Brenny Trucking receives the MTA Safety Professional of the Year Award from John Hausladen of the Minnesota Trucking Association.

Jeff Muzik, safety director at Brenny Transportation, was presented the Safety Professional of the Year Award at the annual conference of the Minnesota

Trucking Association July 31. The MTA Safety Professional of the Year Award recognizes an individual who manages the safety activities of their company,

including being responsible for creating and running the safety program and contributes through personal effort to the advancement of highway safety.

Brenny Transportation Inc. was a recipient of the Women In Trucking Association's 2019 Top Woman-Owned Businesses in Transportation. The list was created to recognize women in leadership and encourage more women to become proactive leaders in their organizations and start their own businesses. The recipients will be honored at Women In Trucking Accelerate! Conference & Expo Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in Dallas.

The Minnesota State Arts Board awarded seven grants to area organizations including **College of St. Benedict Fine Arts Programming**, \$28,065; **St. John's Boys Choir**, \$22,137; and **St. John's University Fine Arts Programming**, \$30,126.

Five St. Joseph students have been named to the spring semester dean's list at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. To qualify for the dean's list, a student must attain a minimum 3.66 grade-point average. The students are: **Kate Bechtold**, **Lauren Chlan**, **Grayson Martone**, **Nicole Shimak**, and **Alex Theisen**.

Two St. Joseph students were recently named to the spring semester president's list at Bemidji (Minn.) State

University. They are **Margaret Donnay** and **Lauren Stock**. To be eligible students must earn a perfect 4.0 grade-point average.

Two St. Joseph students were recently named to the spring semester dean's list at Bemidji State University. They are **Shelbi Keehr** and **Peter Nelson**. To be eligible, students must earn a minimum 3.5 grade-point average.

Stearns Electric's Operation Round-Up Program contributed \$24,964 to area organizations during its July

meeting. Through the Operation Round-Up program, Stearns Electric Association gives its member-consumers the opportunity to give back to the community by rounding up their electric bill to the nearest dollar. Organizations receiving contributions include **St. Joseph Recreational Association**.

CRAFT-VENDOR SALES

Saturday, Sept. 7
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 8
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Programs

from front page

stations include the canine patrol units, the drone program, the horse patrol and many others.

Yet another outreach effort involves two deputies being assigned to each of the county's 36 townships as contact resources. Now and then they visit town hall meetings, review reports, offer suggestions and hear ideas. In that way, the law officers get to know the townships and vice versa and can better solve problems because of the enhanced communications, Soyka noted.

Finally, the department is focused on employee recruitment. There is a serious lack of correctional officers at the Stearns County Jail, which requires the county to move inmates from time to time to other counties' jails. Recruitment members will visit places like schools, law-enforcement learning programs and job fairs

to get the word out that students should consider choosing some aspect of law enforcement as a career, including jobs as correctional officers.

The department's Internal Wellness Program is so far a fledgling effort, Soyka noted, but progress is being made so employees who often work long nights will have the chance to participate in wellness programs scheduled with the work shifts in mind. Stearns County provides wellness programs, but very often they are learning sessions during luncheons, for instance, designed for employees on day shifts.

Soyka noted the new deputy squad cars will sport a new logo that is meant to be a visible reminder for the unity and communications of the initiative programs. There will be a blue line for law enforcement, a red line for fire-and-rescue, a silvery white line for corrections/jail, and a yellow line for communications/dispatch. Under the logo is the statement, "We Stand as One."

REIMBURSED STIPEND VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is looking for volunteers, 55+ to serve in our LSS Companion Program. Our volunteers receive a stipend, mileage reimbursement and other benefits.

Contact Janel Heinen at 320.241.5173 or email
Janel.Heinen@lssmn.org

www.lssmn.org | Janel.heinen@lssmn.org



St. Stephen Parish Festival

**Monday, September 2nd
11 am - 7 pm—Labor Day**

St. Stephen, MN

**Rain or Shine, our Festival welcomes Everyone!
Bring the Family!**

Fr. Eugene Doyle, Pastor

Inside Hall Events: (Air Conditioning or heated (if necessary))

- Bingo and Dice Game
- Country Store and Bake Sale

Outside booths:

- Goat Raffle
- Quilt Stand—Quilt Raffle (View quilts at greatrivercatholic.org)
- Bouja—\$3.00 bowl or \$10.00 ½ gallon
- Cake Walk
- Farmers Market
- Hamburger-Hot Dog, French Fries
- Taco in a bag
- Beer Gardens
- Pull Tabs
- Grannie's Attic—Freewill Offering
- Silent Auction
- Pop, water, slushies, candy and ice cream

Children's Games and Activities

Starting at 12 noon:
✓ Face Painting
✓ Inflatables
✓ Bingo, Fish Pond
Starting at 1 pm:
NEW THIS YEAR—
✓ Peddle Tractor Pull

Grand Raffle

\$2.00 a ticket

- ✓ Announcing winners at 5:30 pm -- after Quilt Raffle Winners
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- ✓ Over \$13,000 in cash and prizes

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11 am - 2 pm

Laverne & the
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2 pm - 7 pm

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Bikes, bikes and more bikes visit St. Joseph

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Local residents might have wondered if bicycles were going to be the new form of transportation when about 300 cyclists rode into St. Joseph on Aug. 14 for the Bicycling Around Minnesota Tour.

"We had a wonderful time in St. Joseph," said Lisa Austin, a member of the Bicycling Around Minnesota board of directors and volunteer media contact. "We camped at the St. Joseph Government Center and had our registration check-in and breakfast (at the College of St. Benedict). The college helped put (up) great signs to direct people. The hospitality was great."

She said many riders got there early Wednesday afternoon and had dinner at restaurants such as Bello Cucina in town and people went to Bad Habit Brewing Co. Cyclists either camped or stayed in hotels or other lodging in the area.

"The breakfast at St. Ben's was excellent," she said. "The students are lucky to have such good food."

St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schultz said he met with the Bicycling Around Minnesota group on Wednesday evening and sent them on their way Thursday morning. He met Jeff Schwalen, the group's board chair, and the 300 plus cyclists at breakfast on Thursday morning.

Schultz accepted an outdoor bike bollard rack from

Schwalen and the group.

Austin said they also shared information about bike programs in Minnesota including Safe Routes to School, Bike Friendly Communities, the mayors bicycle caucus, the Minnesota Bike Map and a study on the economics of bicycling.

"The Lake Wobegon trail was great to ride on and so well maintained," Austin said.

City Administrator Kris Ambuehl said the current plan is to install the bike bollard rack at the beginning of the Lake Wobegon trail in early October.

Bicycling Around Minnesota is a nonprofit organization that focuses on featuring Minnesota areas to cyclists. The annual tour is a four-day event with cyclists riding 60 to 80 miles each day and staying overnight in four host cities. The ride is recommended for moderate to experienced cyclists.

This year's cyclists did a four-day loop tour beginning and ending in St. Joseph. Their journey included riding from St. Joseph to Sauk Centre on Thursday, to Spicer on Friday, to Hutchinson on Saturday and returning to St. Joseph on Sunday.

At the end of each day's ride of the tour, the group donates a bike rack to the host town they are staying in, such as the one they donated to St. Joseph.

Thursday morning, many of the riders rode the Lake Wobegon Trail and viewed the St. John's Abbey Church and Hill Museum and Manuscript Library before stopping at the



photo by Cori Hilsgen

Bicycling Around Minnesota cyclists (left to right) Linda Gruenhagen, Mara Krinke and Karen Graham stopped on the way between St. Joseph and Sauk Centre at the Gathering Grounds Coffee Shop in Avon.

Gathering Grounds Coffee Shop in Avon.

Linda Gruenhagen, 58, from North St. Paul said some riders want to just ride fast, but she was enjoying the stops along the way. She said she would never have visited the St. John's Abbey Church, which she said was a very modern building even though it was built about the time she was born. Gruenhagen said she was also enjoying the "fun and quaint" Gathering Grounds Coffee Shop and was glad she had stopped.

Karen Graham, 45, from Minneapolis said she was enjoying the stops along the ride and said she had a chance to view the St. John's Bible that morning.

"What a beautiful small

town," Mara Krinke, 47, from Portland, Ore., said of Avon. "Everyone's been so friendly."

The three commented that cyclists with the group ranged in age between 26 and 84 years old and the average age of riders was 60 years. They represented 21 states.

Michael Doyle, from Collegeville who is the ride director for the Tour of Saints annual bike ride, joined the cyclists and helped with coordination of support vehicles to answer cyclists questions and offer assistance with bicycle repairs.

"Starting at the College of St. Benedict was a great place to start," Doyle said. "Riders had a nice breakfast at the dining hall and the mayor gave a nice greeting to everyone."

Other destinations the group had options to view along the way included Hemker Park and Zoo by Freeport; the home of Sinclair Lewis, Carnegie Library, Sauk Centre History Museum and Research Center in Sauk Centre; Max Bat baseball factory in Brooten; Sibley State Park with a chance to hike to the top of Mount Tom and a water ski performance by the Little Crow Ski Team in New London; Green Lake by Spicer, Lake Koronis by Paynesville, a portion of the Glacial Lakes State Trail; Forest City Stockade; Hutchinson Aquatic Center; and the Darwin Twine Ball Museum and World's Largest Hand-Carved Multiple Pliers.

Children travel 'To Mars and Beyond' at Vacation Bible School

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Fifty years after American astronauts landed on the moon on July 20, 1969, Vacation Bi-

ble School participants and volunteers were busy traveling "To Mars and Beyond" Aug. 4-8 at Resurrection Lutheran Church.

While Americans remem-

bered the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 mission, 80 Vacation Bible School participants were busy learning about scripture stories that included "Daniel in the Lion's Den," "Queen Esther Takes a Stand," "The Good Samaritan," "Jesus Heals 10 Lepers" and "Jesus Comforts Friends on the Way to Emmaus."

Organizers and children, ages 4 years old through sixth-grade from the St. Joseph area gathered for the ecumenical event that has been taking place for 36 years.

Vacation Bible School organizers Marian Bach and Laura Gorder from the Church of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Rachel Kuebelbeck from Resurrection Lutheran Church and the Rev. Bruce and Joy Tesen, husband and wife from Gateway Church, coordinated the event with between 35-40 volunteers to make it a fun, faith-filled experience for the children.

Bach said the group did some "power launching" and discovered what it means to "go beyond with faith, boldness, kindness, thankfulness



photo by Cori Hilsgen

Third-, fourth- and fifth-graders at Vacation Bible School enjoy snacks of colorful fruit, illustrating the jewels Queen Esther wore on her crown.

and hope."

"We are discovering wonderful things just as the astronauts did 50 years ago," she said. "God's wondrous creation. We, too, are taking

'one small step for man and one giant leap for mankind.' Each child at Vacation Bible School is learning about being filled with faith, going

Moon • page 11

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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PET CARE GUIDE | SHOWING YOU CARE

© ADOBE STOCK

Pamper Your Pet

Show your four-legged bestie your appreciation for their companionship and unconditional love by pampering them. Don't be discouraged if there isn't enough money in your budget to purchase the latest and greatest toys or treats; a prized moment in a pet's life is when their owners give their attention and affection.

Consider these awesome ideas to give your pet a day of excitement or make them more comfortable with an addition to the home.

A NEW BED

Much like us, our pets love to be comfortable, even if sometimes their sleeping positions say otherwise. If their bedding is worn out, consider purchasing a new mattress to rest their head.

Ensure the stuffing is pet friendly,

especially if you have a curious animal who is more interested in finding out what is inside the bed. To add even more comfort, you can include an orthopedic pillow and comfortable blankets.

BUILD A PLAY AREA

Dog owners can design an area in their backyards which encourages exercise while allowing their pups to burn off some steam. Try to include compo-

nents which will require them to use their balance, agility and hurdling abilities. If you are the proud owner of an indoor cat, consider building a climbing area filled with scratching posts, rest areas and include toys or catnip throughout the path.

GLAMOUR SHOTS

This one may be more for an owner than an actual pet, but who doesn't love glamour shots of their animal? You will

be rewarded with beautiful photos to display while the model will enjoy the attention they receive from a photographer. It's a win-win.

WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

If you're planning a vacation but are unable to bring your pet, look for a luxury resort in your area or on the way to your destination. Professionals will ensure they exercise, eat nutritional meals and receive the utmost care.

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BACK TO SCHOOL | SMART SHOPPING

Making the Most of your Budget

Sometimes it seems like summer has only begun when the first back-to-school ads begin showing up.

But schools are starting earlier than ever — and retailers at brick-and-mortar stores and online are ready to meet all your needs. Whether your child is just beginning school, a middle- or high-schooler, or headed to or back to college, shopping for the return of school days is both more complicated and easier than ever. The website Great Schools offers some tips to help you prepare for the experience.

MAKE A LIST TOGETHER

Before you begin shopping, make a list and involve your kids. The process will both motivate and provide a valuable learning experience. Begin with the basics. Check with schools for required and recommended supplies. Other parents with older kids are also a great resource. Students from elementary to college will obviously have different needs (and wants), so advance research will save you time and money.

MUST-HAVES AND NICE-TO-HAVES

Sorting out the aforementioned needs and wants is crucial in budgeting for the necessities and the desires of students. Once you've ensured



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you've addressed the former you can take into account requests for the latter. Students young and old are sensitive to trends, whether it's the character on your elementary-age child's notebook, the latest fashion or a next-level phone or computer, working with your children to establish the importance of a budget and priorities will help keep you both on track and spare them disappointment.

SALES AND TAX-FREE DAYS

Back-to-school sales will start early, so taking advantage of them will save money, time and frustration. Supplies from the most basic to the latest trend can and will vanish before you know it. Keep your eyes open for sales, promotions and tips from other parents. Both brick-and-mortar and online stores are competing for your dollar, so be vigilant for

price-matching and value-oriented sales on standard supplies. Many states also now offer tax-free days, creating extra values in supplies, clothing, computers and electronics.

DETERMINE WHEN QUALITY COUNTS

Bargains are attractive to any consumer at any level, but figuring out when quality counts will save you money in the long run. For many, seemingly basic

needs — pens, for example, on the low end, or computers on the high end — cheaper might seem better. That may be true in the moment, but leaky pens might mean ruined clothing and a bargain-basement computer likely won't last over the long term. Use common sense and make smart investments. Rock-bottom values aren't always the best deal. Both you and your children will benefit from your quality choices.

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BACK TO SCHOOL | SCHEDULES AND ROUTINES

Keeping Time On Your Side

Whether it's work or play, time-management skills are necessary and invaluable to us all. When you add school to the mix, beating the clock takes on a whole new meaning.

Making sure your kids get to and from school on time, juggling extracurricular activities and appointments, and ensuring they devote appropriate time to homework and socializing makes time management that much trickier. The good news? It's been done before! The tutoring website Oxford Learning offers these tips for keeping time on your side.

SCHEDULING AND AGENDAS

From the youngest to the oldest, students quickly learn the value — and sense of accomplishment — from completing a task and crossing it off a list. Making a list. Creating an agenda and scheduling routines and activities will keep stress at bay and create valuable lifelong habits. Work with your children in creating these tools to avoid conflicts and keep the entire family on track.

REST AND RELAXATION

Any teacher will tell you that the best rested students



© ADOBE STOCK

are the best prepared and most engaged students. Making the switch from a relative lack of routine and lax bedtime schedules during the summer to the orderliness of school and activities can be jarring — and difficult at first. But setting and keeping a consistent sleep routine — even on the weekends — will ensure your children are ready for each day. After-school breaks and wind-down

time from homework and chores will also help kids stay focused and refreshed.

MEALS AND NUTRITION

The quality and nutrition of food is just one side of a healthy diet. Equally as important is maintaining a routine dining schedule. Establishing a schedule for breakfast and dinner will create several benefits: you'll ensure sufficient time to have

a proper, relaxed meal before the day begins or ends; a routine will help keep kids nourished and less likely to snack; eating at least one meal together as a family will keep everyone in touch and the lines of communication open.

DRESSING FOR SUCCESS

Create time each evening to prepare for the next. That rule doesn't just apply to thoughts

of what is to come — but to be ready for it. Practicing wardrobe selection the night before also has several benefits: choosing what to wear will be less stressful and make the morning go smoother; digging through laundry for clothes will become a thing of the past; and your children will be ready for the next day's events — at school, for an outing or any post-school activities.

Teach Your Teen About Money

Start the year off right — teach your teen about money by encouraging them to open an account at your local community bank.



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Kern's military career took him from missiles to computers

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

Charles Edward Kern, 69
U.S. Army – Vietnam Era

Charles “Chuck” Kern was born in Little Falls. He was raised just outside of Little Falls in a home his father built for the family. Kern was the oldest of three. One of his brothers is deceased.

Kern best describes his upbringing “as a typical small-town, normal childhood.” While in high school he was involved in athletics, particularly baseball.

He graduated from high school in June 1968. The war in Vietnam that year was marked by what became known as The



Kern in October 1968

Tet Offensive (Jan. 30 through Sept. 23).

Regardless of one’s political views on the Vietnam War, this time period saw some of the most intense fighting as well as passionate anti-war protests back home. The war was perhaps the most divisive issue during this historical period in which passions were intensely felt on both sides of the debate.

Kern enlisted in the Army in October 1968. In lieu of being drafted, he signed up for three years. He explains his decision



Kern

to enlist as follows: “When you love your country and your

Missiles • back page

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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.

Cultural Bridges is hosting a multicultural potluck Sunday, Aug. 25, at Resurrection Lutheran Church in St. Joseph. At 10 a.m. the documen-

tary “Warehoused, the Forgotten Refugees of Dadaab” will be shown. A former Dadaab resident will be available to answer questions. The potluck will begin at 11:30 a.m. Children are welcome and activities will be provided for them after they have eaten. Contact Angela Haynes with questions. 320-845-7789.
Nos olvidamos de incluir a los latinos que tambien participan en el jardin comun al lado de otros jardineros! Nos perdonen, por favor!
Con este anuncio, quer-

emos informarles del "potluck", el domingo 25 de agosto , en la iglesia Resurrection Lutheran Church aqui en San Jose. El "potluck" empieza a las 11:30.
Por favor, lleven Uds. algo! – quizas un plato culturalmente mexicano – para reparar con los que van a participar en este evento especial, y por favor, inviten a otros de habla espanola. Bienvenidos a todos!
Para los ninos habra actividades especiales despues de haber comido.

Si hay preguntas, puedan llamar a Angela Haynes (320-845-7789) o Juliana Howard (715-791-8976) o Jamal Elmi (320-310-2351).
Ururka Cultural bridge waxay martigelinayaan xaflado dhaqameed kala duwan Axadda Agoosto 25, kaniisadda Lutheran ee St. Joseph. 10-ka aroornimo ayaa dokumentiga "keydka la keydiyey, Qaxootiga Dhadhaab ee la illoobey" ayaa la soo bandhigi doonaa. Qof hore u deganaa Dhadhaab ayaa diyaar u noqon doona inuu ka

jawaabo su'aalaha. Cuntocunidu Wuxuu bilaabanayaa 11:30 a.m. carruurta waa la soo dhaweynayaa waxqabadna waa loo siin doonaa iyaga ka dib markay wax cunaan. La xiriir Angela Haynes wixii su'aalo ah. 320-845-7789.Haddii aad wax su'aalo ah qabtid, fadlan kala xiriir Juliana Howard taleefanka 715-791-8976 ama Jamal Elmi 320-310-2351. Jamal Elmi.
If you have any questions, please contact Juliana Howard at 715-791-8976 or Jamal Elmi, 320-310-2351.

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, Aug. 23
St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

Sunday, Aug. 25
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.
Multicultural Potluck, 10 a.m. Resurrection Luther-

an Church, 610 CR 2. “Warehoused, the Forgotten Refugees of Dadaab” will be shown. The potluck will begin at 11:30 a.m. Children are welcome and activities will be provided for them after they have eaten. 320-845-7789.

Monday, Aug. 26
St. Cloud school district Community Linkages Committee, 8 a.m., District Administration Office, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park.
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.
St. Joseph Township Board, 8 p.m. Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S.

Tuesday, Aug. 27
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.
Collegeville Township Board, 7 p.m., Township Hall, 27724 CR 50.

Friday, Aug. 30
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, Aug. 31
Brat sale, sponsored by St. Joseph Y2K Lions, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW. Proceeds do-

nated to Sauk Rapids Lions Building Project. Old glasses, hearing aids and cell phones will be collected.

Monday, Sept. 2
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, Sept. 3
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, Sept. 4
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, Sept. 5
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, Sept. 6
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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Opinion

Our View

Republicans need to be part of the gun-safety solution

89, 89, 77, 67, 65.

What do these numbers have in common?

They represent the percentage of Americans who favor various gun-safety measures. But from St. Paul to Washington, D.C., none of them have become law.

89: The percent of people who favor universal background checks on sales.

89: The percent of people who favor extreme protection orders, better known as red-flag laws, which allow guns to be taken from people who are deemed a threat to themselves or others. About a dozen states, not including Minnesota, have passed them and they've been effective in preventing suicides.

77: The percent of people who support gun licensing.

67: The percent of people who want to restore the federal assault weapons ban, first passed 25 years ago and allowed to expire.

65: The percent of people who want to limit high-capacity magazines.

Restoring the assault weapons ban and limiting high-capacity magazines will save lives. It took a shooter all of 32 seconds to spray 41 rounds in Dayton, Ohio, this month in an attack that killed nine people and injured 27. Police on the scene responded in seconds. When police shot him dead, the killer still had dozens of bullets to go in his double-drum, 100-round magazine.

There's one reason these proposals have not become law: Republicans.

In Washington, D.C., the Republican-controlled Senate blocks any attempt to even vote on gun safety. Earlier this year, the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives approved wider background checks and a red-flag law. The background checks would not apply to gifts or loans between family members for hunting or use at a shooting range.

Our representative, Republican Tom Emmer, voted against both these bills.

Emmer voted against other gun-safety laws as well. In February 2017, Emmer voted to overturn an Obama Administration rule that kept guns from people who the Social Security Administration said could not manage their own finances.

This year, Emmer voted against the so-called "boy-friend loophole" to expand gun prohibitions to include dating partners convicted of abuse or stalking.

Last week at a town hall in St. Cloud, Emmer declined to say whether he would support gun-safety legislation.

No gun-safety legislation passed this session in St. Paul either.

Democrats controlled the Minnesota House and did approve two gun-safety actions, but the Republican-controlled Senate opposed them.

The first proposal would have expanded background checks to private gun sales. Exceptions would be made for firearm transfers to an immediate family member, transfers while hunting, at a shooting competition or at a gun range.

The second would have allowed law enforcement to remove a person's firearms if they are believed to pose a danger to themselves or others.

When a conference committee worked to resolve differences between Senate and House versions of a crime-and-safety bill, Republicans blocked the gun-safety measures.

As of this past weekend, there have been 319 mass shootings, where four or more people were shot, this year in the United States. Those incidents resulted in 373 deaths and 1,238 injured people.

In 2018, more people died from firearms than any year since 1968, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There were 39,773 gun deaths and about two-thirds were suicides.

Will these gun-safety proposals, awaiting action in St. Paul and Washington, D.C., stop all gun deaths?

No.

Seat belts, air bags, driver training and stiffer DWI laws have not prevented all traffic deaths. But they have dramatically cut fatalities. Traffic deaths per miles traveled have declined by 70 percent since 1960.

What would success look like for gun safety? Would we be satisfied if we cut gun deaths by 25 percent? That's 10,000 lives a year. By 50 percent? That's 20,000 lives and tens of thousands more injuries.

We need to demand our Republican representatives vote with the people and not with their party.

Emmer in Washington, Reps. Lisa Demuth and Tim O'Driscoll and Sen. Jeff Howe in St. Paul need to vote for public safety or they should be voted out.

Some schools die of old age, others burst with students

What's the life expectancy of a new high school? How long into the future will it adequately serve students?

With two new high schools opening in Central Minnesota this fall, students, parents and teachers will experience the unique beginning of new places to learn.

The Sartell-St. Stephen school district opens a new school on Pinecone Road. It replaces a relatively new building, from the mid 1990s, that will soon house middle school students. The first Sartell high school opened just 50 years ago.

On the southwest side of St. Cloud, a new Tech High School replaces a building that dates to 1917.

The designers of both buildings are looking ahead 50 or more years. During planning stages, teachers, students, administrators and architects asked what does education look like today and what will it look like years from now.

Both feature a variety of bright, open spaces for all types of learning – large classrooms, spaces for small groups and adaptable technology labs. And there are some traditional features that are gone. There's no library in Sartell. Books are shelved around the building in "little libraries" and several studios support digital media creation and production.

While Tech "lived" more than 100 years, Sartell's most recent high school lived a shorter life.

Situations in very different cities

Mike Knaak
Editor



made the difference between the lifespan of two schools.

In downtown St. Cloud, Tech essentially died of old age. With additions in 1938, 1954, 1963 and 1975, Tech expanded to accommodate a growing student population and changing curriculum. But new wings and paint couldn't save the main building.

As a student in the 1970s, I remember walking the high-ceiling halls, climbing the open staircases and seeing the beautiful wood trim and doors. New fire codes killed the classic look of the old building. And I remember playing sports in a gym, which doubled as an auditorium, with walls dangerously close to the basketball court. The 1975 addition included a larger, safer gym and swimming pool.

Tech was already more than 50 years old when the first Sartell High School appeared. When it opened in 1969, my Sartell area classmates from North Junior High School and Tech left for their new school. A year later, the St. Cloud district's new high school, Apollo, opened.

That first year that new Sartell junior/senior high school accommodated

675 students in grades seven through 12; 18 seniors graduated the first year. Rapid growth in the district led to a new high school in 1993.

In 1970, there were 1,323 residents in the city of Sartell. By 1990 the population had grown to 5,393 and those numbers don't include the people in Le Sauk Township and St. Stephen.

School enrollment kept pace. In 2000, the district served more than 2,500 students. By 2018, the enrollment grew to more than 3,900 and just in Sartell, there were more than 18,000 people.

Along the way, the Sartell-St. Stephen school district built two elementary schools.

While old age killed Tech, "youthful" growth fueled Sartell's need for more student space.

Real estate agents and community leaders tout the Sartell-St. Stephen school district's reputation to attract new residents and the availability of residential building space added to the growth boom of the last 20 years.

At various school meetings the last year or so, I've heard Sartell-St. Stephen district residents ask how long the new high school will last ... and when will they have to finance a new one. There's no certain answer to how much and how fast student populations will increase.

But when it comes to design and educational opportunities, these new buildings won't die of old age any time soon.

Guns don't kill people? Oh yes they do!

Guns don't kill people? Since when?

Was that a long candy cane the killer was holding when he slaughtered those people in El Paso? Was the Dayton butcher wielding a love wand?

It's the knee-jerk line promulgated for years by the National Rifle Association: Guns don't kill people.

After the recent massacres, Donald Trump dispensed a variation of that "volition" slogan, that guns can't "act" in killings. He said it's "hatred and mental illness" that pulled that trigger, not the gun. Well . . . yes. But no. Trump, not surprisingly, was distracting from the point – that guns (the use of guns) kill people constantly.

The NRA, pressured by gun manufacturers, trots out the "guns don't kill" nonsense, and the NRA then dictates to the U.S. Congress. The big money the NRA gives to politicians is most helpful in convincing them to deep-six any gun legislation, come hell or high water. Meantime, mass killings continue. People cry out for gun laws, but as soon as the victims are buried, after the thoughts and prayers drift away, the pressure dissipates. So, oh well, let's just keep stumbling into the future like amnesiacs. Until the next massacre, and the next and the . . .

The NRA leadership's propaganda pitch goes like this: Guns should never be restricted because it would do no good. Deranged people will use knives, bombs, vehicles. Background checks won't work; people intent on murder will find a way around them.

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



The only solution is to have armed guards at places where people gather – malls, churches, schools (arming teachers, too). Remember, folks, as Wayne LaPierre of the NRA once said, the only way to stop a bad guy with a wgun is a good guy with a gun. Oh, and not to forget, the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms, any kind of arms, all arms. That is a sacred right that must never be infringed upon. If it ever is, "they" will start taking your huntin' guns away. So says the NRA.

The good news is more Americans are countering the barrage of NRA propaganda. Their counter-arguments go like this:

- Just because gun restrictions won't prevent all killings doesn't mean it won't stop some of them.

- Expanded background checks, as other countries have shown, do in fact stop some potentially dangerous people from purchasing guns.

- To a degree, well-trained armed guards can help prevent some shootings, but "more guns, guns, guns" here, there and everywhere is a recipe for a bloody ricochet of mayhem.

- There is no reason whatsoever to allow civilians to have access to military assault-style weapons and

high-capacity magazines.

- The Second Amendment is not an untouchable right, just as the First Amendment is not absolute. There are restrictions on it (for examples libel, slander, yelling "Fire!" in a crowded theater.) The Founding Fathers, we can be sure, did not envision military assault-style weapons when they agreed to the "right to bear arms."

The heartbreaking massacre of children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012 should haunt and hound the conscience of every American. Assault weapons should have been banned then, but spineless politicians did nothing. Once again, they took their cues from the gun lobby, not from devastated parents.

There was actually a 10-year federal ban on manufacturing semi-automatic firearms for civilian use, but the ban (and its loopholes) expired in 2004 and was not renewed.

But now, after escalating mass killings, many of them perpetrated by hate-filled white supremacists, it's time. Time to tighten gun restrictions, including a total ban on military assault-style weapons. Even hard-core, pro-gun Republican politicians sense the time is coming for a total ban on assault weapons. The public will demand it. That's why so many in Congress are caving in on background checks. They are hoping, by giving in on that, the demands for a ban will just go away. It won't! Please shout out to all legislators and senators: Guns DO kill people. The time to act is now!

Moon

from front page

boldly with courage, kindness, thankfulness and hope for all the world."

Children learned by daily rotating activity stations during the five days. Activities included Bible stories, music, snacks, games, crafts and science experiments relating to the theme.

On the second night of the event, participants learned about Queen Esther.

"Although Queen Esther lived thousands of years ago, her bold and courageous actions still inspire us today," Tessen summarized. "In her new position as queen, Esther took a very risky action in standing up against evil Haman, the king's second in command. Risking her own life, she informs the king of Haman's evil plan to kill her and all of her people. Her act of bravery and boldness saved all of God's people from certain death."

He commented about how participants can be like Queen Esther in their own lives.

"At times, we have been given the opportunity to stick up for someone else, or to speak up about a situation that's unjust," Tessen said. "In seizing the opportunity to do so, maybe our bold and courageous action will inspire someone else years from now – like Esther's example has for us today."

Second- and third-graders wrote the following words on pieces of paper "Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us." They were then instructed to crush those pieces of paper into a ball, stand on opposite sides of a line and throw snowballs of paper at each other.

Participants giggled at the thought of throwing snowballs in August and then tossed the words back and forth at each other.

Third-, fourth- and fifth-graders were busy eating snacks of brightly colored fruits, which reflected the jewels that Queen Esther wore on her crown.

Kindergarten and first-graders were busy drawing and creating a galaxy to remind them that God created the Universe.

Other participants were busy listening to Tessen tell the story of Queen Esther, practicing some of the songs of the week or doing other activities.

This year's theme song was "On Our Way To Mars and Beyond." Other songs included "Even when the Lion's Roar," "Safe Inside Your Love," "God of Wonders," "We Thank

You," and "Love that Makes the World Go 'Round."

"This year's 'vector verse' or theme is from Ephesians 3:20 'Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us...'" Gorder said.

"Our crafts, games (and more) all focus on teaching children they can accomplish tasks that seem impossible by asking God's help to use the courage and strength he has given us," she said.

Gorder said each year Vacation Bible School asks for help and by "God's grace," they get everything they need and more, much like Ephesians 3:20.

"We ask businesses of St. Joseph to continue to support this wonderful ecumenical endeavor in a way that works for their business as well," Gorder said. "Monetary donations are always welcome, but we also welcome help with finding boxes, food, craft supplies for the week."

She said they have the support of Vacation Bible School volunteers from the St. Joseph, Sartell and St. Cloud area. Some of these families are not members of the sponsoring churches but love the program and come back year after year. This year, in particular, the program had three people returning for their 27th year as volunteers or participants in Vacation Bible School, along with at least four volunteers who are new to the program.

Kuebelbeck said this year's theme verse is very symbolic of the St. Joseph Vacation Bible School program.

"Participants come from different backgrounds and with differing understandings of God, but with God more is possible than we can imagine," she said. "For over 35 years, St. Joseph has hosted a community religion program that is a fun place to learn about God with friends and caring adults. Everyone is welcome. We focus on our similarities and not our differences."

Every year our outstanding volunteers plan and carry out brilliant ideas that build community."

Gorder said there is not a person involved with the event who is paid.

"Each and every one of our volunteers give of their God-given gifts and talents to share with Vacation Bible School," she said. "This is how they show the children the gifts God has given them as individuals and their call to responsibility to share those gifts with others."

Many area children have been attending the event since they were 4 years old. Some of them continue to return as volunteers when they are in seventh grade and older.

Gorder said she watched her daughter play with another student after the program

ended, while everyone was cleaning up, and said many new relationships are formed before, during and after the five evenings together.

"If it were not for the volunteers and kids, those children wouldn't have built such a great friendship," she said. "We are a very blessed community to be able to share this week together with the help of businesses and the

people of our local community."

This year's service project for the week involved collecting books to be donated to Anna Marie's Alliance and Place of Hope Ministries in St. Cloud, first-year teachers at Kennedy Community School (to help build their classroom libraries) and local Little Libraries.

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Missiles

from page 8

boyhood hero is John Wayne, you feel somewhat compelled to serve. I feel a kindred bond with those who have served and who now currently serve in the military."

"For those who have never experienced those sentiments and those self-imposed obligations . . . they would likely trivialize 'Duty. . . Honor. . . Country.'"

Kern did his basic training at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He came out of boot camp in the "best shape of (my) life."

From there he was sent to Fort Gordon, Georgia, for advanced infantry training. He was then sent to Fort Bliss, Texas, for three weeks of missile training on Redeye surface-

to-air missile.

After three weeks of training, and somewhat contrary to initial expectations, Kern was ordered to Schweinfurt, Germany. During WW II Schweinfurt was a prime target for allied bombing raids given its strategic importance, as the ball-bearing factories were there.

Kern reports he was quite lonely for the year he was stationed there. He extended for a year beyond his initial enlistment in order to get back to the United States and change his Military Occupational Status from that of infantry to working with first-generation computers.

Kern reasoned working with computers in the Army was a transferable skill useful in civilian life compared with surface-to-air missiles.

By way of comparison, the

computer data stored 50 years ago would require the space equivalent to a semi-trailer where now the same amount of data can easily be stored in a laptop computer.

After two months of training at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, Kern was given orders to the First Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. He spent the remaining two-and-a-half years on active duty at the Data Process Center, Fort Hood.

After four and a half years, Kern completed his active duty and was discharged in April of 1973.

About that time he presented himself to a review board and the board having reviewed his exemplary record, offered Kern a commission as a second lieutenant in the National Guard. From his entry level commissioned officer rank, Kern finished up his 23-year career in the military with the

rank of major. He was released from the National Guard on his 41st birthday.

In civilian life, Kern returned to Little Falls in April 1973. Under the G.I. Bill he attended Brainerd Community College full time from 1973-75. He took a year off and worked at Camp Ripley in 1975-76. Kern resumed his education at St. Cloud State University in 1976. He enrolled in the St. Cloud Hospital School of Nursing from 1977-80.

After passing his boards, Kern worked as a registered nurse at Albany Hospital. In 1981, he started a nursing career at the Veterans Administration Hospital in St. Cloud.

At the time he retired from the V.A., after 28 years, Kern was a staff nurse, case manager and a nurse manager. Retiring in June 2009, he had racked up 32-½ years of military and federal employee history.

While attending Brainerd Community College, Kern met his future wife, Mary Kay. They had their first date on St. Patrick's Day 1974 and married in 1979.

Mary Kay is a retired special education teacher.

The Kerns have been married for 40 years. With both retired, they enjoy their comfortable home in Peasant Acres. The couple has two daughters and a granddaughter they shamelessly dote on.

Kern is involved in numerous volunteer roles. Currently, he is the American Legion Post 328 commander. He is a good golfer, enjoys movies, books of fiction, travel . . . and did we say golf.

Kern would recommend any young man or woman to consider a military career. One would be hard pressed to find a more demonstratively patriotic person than Kern.

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