

# Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Sept. 20, 2019  
Volume 31, Issue 18  
Est. 1989

## Town Crier

### Frantober Fest set Sept. 21, 22

Frantober Fest, hosted by St. Francis Xavier Catholic Community, will be held starting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21 and 22 at the St. Francis church at 219 Second St. N, Sartell. The event features Franny Flyer Walk and Run, live music, Dad's Belgian Waffles, a silent auction, bake sale, games, food, inflatables and more. For more information, visit [frannyflyer.eventbrite.com](http://frannyflyer.eventbrite.com).

### St. Stephen Citywide Garage Sales set Sept. 26-28

The citywide garage sale weekend has been set for Sept 26-28. Individual sales are marked. Stop by Howie's Corner Bar, The Rusty Nail or Trobec's Bar for lunch!

### Millstream Arts Fest to be held Sept. 29

Millstream Arts Festival will offer free, supervised bike-coral services by St. John's Preparatory National Honor Society students for those who wish to cycle to the festival. The corral will be located near the information booth. The event will be held from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29 and includes juried art, music, food and activities for all. Food-shelf donations welcome at the info booth. For more information, visit [millstreamartsfestival.org](http://millstreamartsfestival.org).

### Pumpkin Fest set Oct. 18 at Lake George

The 10th annual Pumpkin Fest, sponsored by St. Cloud Park and Recreation, will be held from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18 at Lake George. The event includes a DJ and dance party, trunk or treat stations, a hay maze, hayrides, a pumpkin patch, a haunted house, a petting zoo, face painting, inflatables and much more. Don't forget to wear your costume!

**INSERTS:**  
**Sliced on College Avenue**  
**Woodcrest**  
**of Country Manor**

## Legislators learn about community center

by Mike Knaak  
[editor@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:editor@thenewsleaders.com)

St. Joseph leaders and area legislators have tried for years to secure state funding for a community center.

That effort may have gotten a boost Sept. 4 when members of the House Capital Investment Committee visited St. Joseph.

Legislation introduced by Rep. Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring) and Sen. Jeff Howe (R-Rockville) seeks \$2.5 million in state bonding money for the community center, which would be built as a renovation and expansion of the former Kennedy School.

The city plans to contribute \$6 million from sales tax revenue with another \$6 million coming from donations.

Mayor Rick Schultz led representatives and staff through

**Legislators • page 4**



photo by Mike Knaak

St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schultz holds up plans for a community center while giving a tour to state legislators and community leaders.

## Willhite, Tweh lead Kennedy students, staff

by Cori Hilsgen  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

A familiar face greeted students and staff at Kennedy Community School when Anna Willhite, principal, welcomed everyone for the 2019-20 school year.

Willhite was previously an assistant principal at the school for three-and-a-half years, working with Laurie Putnam as principal. Effective in July, Putnam is now the assistant superintendent for secondary education for the St. Cloud school district.

This will be Willhite's fourth year at Kennedy. She began her career as a teacher at the Alter-

native Learning Center for a couple of years and then spent about six years at South Junior High School. She also spent the last four months

of the 2018-2019 school year as assistant principal at North Junior High School, during which time Todd Van Erp was the temporary assistant principal at Kennedy Community School.

Willhite and assistant principal Richmond Tweh's positions officially began in July, and they



Willhite

collaborated with Putnam on all of the planning pieces for the upcoming school year.

"Kennedy is truly my second home," Willhite said. "I love all of our students, staff and families that I have the honor of working with. Our pre-K through eighth-grade environment provides students with a variety of opportunities and leadership experiences."

Tweh came to St. Cloud as an administrative intern and



Tweh

said he "got an understanding of staffing, budgeting and classroom supervision." He was previously an administrative intern at North Junior High School for three years.

"The staff at Kennedy has been welcoming and very helpful with my transition to a new school and role," he said.

Willhite grew up north of the metro area and moved to Central Minnesota to attend the College of St. Benedict.

"I fell in love with the area and the St. Cloud school district and knew this is where I wanted to be," she said. "I have worked for the district

**Lead • page 2**

## Vogel continues to promote SaveStations

by Cori Hilsgen  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

Joel Vogel of St. Joseph spoke at the Aug. 14 St. Joseph Y2K Lions meeting about outdoor automatic external defibrillator SaveStations in the area and the quick response time needed with sudden-cardiac-arrest and heart-attack victims.

AEDs are portable machines that are used to deliver electrical shocks through the chest to the heart to people who have

had a sudden cardiac arrest. A sudden cardiac arrest is an electrical condition of the heart that causes the heart to suddenly stop beating and results in loss of blood flow to the brain and body. Sudden cardiac arrests can be reversed if cardiopulmonary resuscitation is started and the heart is shocked or "defibrillated" quickly. The electrical shock can stop an irregular heart beat and reset a normal rhythm.

A heart attack, or myocardial

infarction, occurs when coronary arteries are blocked, resulting in decreased blood flow to the heart. When this happens, heart muscles die or are permanently damaged because of the loss of blood flow. A heart attack can lead to sudden cardiac arrest.

Vogel said a victim's chance of surviving after a sudden cardiac arrest drops by about 10 percent for every minute a normal heartbeat isn't restored. The average emergency

response time is about eight minutes. Sudden cardiac arrests kill 1,000 people each day or one person every two minutes.

With a quick response of cardiopulmonary resuscitation and/or an AED, many patients can be saved and that is why Vogel continues to try to increase public awareness.

Vogel is a SaveStation specialist with Advocates For Health. The nonprofit was started by Rich Feneis, who is also a

**Vogel • page 2**



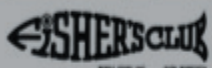
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## Lead

from front page

since 2008 as a coach, teacher, academic coach, administrative intern, assistant principal and now principal."

Willhite has lived in the area since attending the College of St. Benedict. She is married and has three children and two dogs.

"When I am not working, I love spending time with my family, coaching my children's sports and going on adventures," she said.

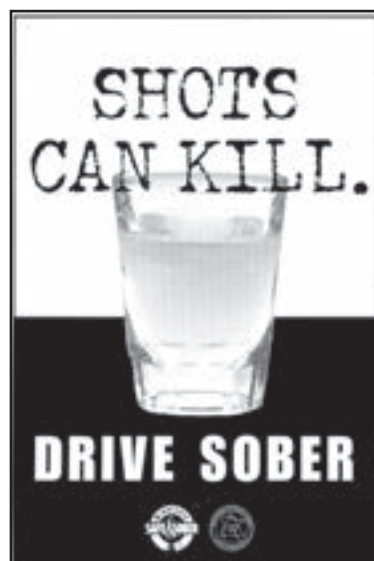
Tweh graduated from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities with his bachelor's degree and later attended St. Mary's University for his master's degree in educational leadership, as well as his K-12 licensure.

He began his educational career at Elizabeth Hall Elementary in Minneapolis, working in various roles for a year.

"When I am not at work, I enjoy spending time with my wife of five years and my 16-month-old daughter," Tweh said. "My hobbies include playing and watching sports (football and basketball), reading and listening to podcasts on various topics."

Willhite said this school year's enrollment is around 820 students from kindergarten through eighth-grade. About 105 employees work in the building

"We have a collaborative community where we all work together to educate, inspire and empower our students to reach their highest potential," Willhite said of Kennedy staff.



## Vogel

from front page

specialist.

He and Feneis have received many donations and assistance from people in the area. Some of them include the following.

Molly Young, a senior at the College of St. Benedict, who is completing visits to all of the 481 AEDs located in Central Minnesota and is helping inventory the AED location in buildings, the model of AED and checking to ensure all the batteries and pads are up-to-date and in working condition.

GeoComm, which specializes in geographic information system technologies, has taken all the 481 AED's addresses and mapped them out for 911 dispatch in the area. Vogel said the plan is for implementation by the end of August with Stearns County.

They will also be sharing the information with the existing national phone applications such as "AED Finder" and "PulsePoint" to update their data for the area.

St. Joseph City Administrator Kris Ambuehl said they will soon be developing an AED location map to put on the city website.

At the Y2K Lions meeting, Vogel asked 10-year-old Anya Gronseth to use an AED and do cardiopulmonary resuscitation to show how easy it is for a person to do. Gronseth was attending the meeting with her grandmother, Lori Steinemann of Sauk Rapids.

When using an AED, a built-in computer checks a victim's heart rhythm through adhesive electrodes and then calculates if defibrillation is needed. If it is needed, a recorded voice prompts the rescuer to press the shock button on the AED and guides the user through the process. AEDs advise a shock for ventricular fibrillation or another life-threatening condition called pulseless ventricular tachycardia.

Recent donations have helped install five outdoor AED SafeStations in the St. Joseph area.

Unfortunately, many AEDs are located in locked buildings and are not always easily accessible. Vogel and Feneis continue to work to get AEDs out where



photo by Cori Hilsgen

**Joel Vogel asks Anya Gronseth to demonstrate how easy it is to use an AED during a recent St. Joseph Y2K Lions meeting.**

people can use them 24/7 such as in SaveStations.

Outdoor SaveStations monitor and report rescue status, the presence of the AED and surrounding conditions. They offer real-time information about the use of the AED and ensure the internal temperature of the storage cabinet keeps the effective operating range of an AED.

AEDs range in price from \$2,795 (standard), \$3,995 (wall mount) and \$4,695 (tower) plus additional costs for the AED installation, electrical hookup, sales tax (if applicable) and shipping costs.

A joint initiative between Sheriff Steve Soyka and the Stearns County Sheriff's Department, local police agencies, local civic organizations, Stearns County Health and Safety Foundation, the CentraCare Foundation, the Greater St. Cloud Safety Foundation, Advocates for Health and Mended Hearts has set a goal of the following:

- Inventory and update existing AEDs in Central Minnesota.
- Replace outdated batteries and pads.
- Strongly encourage installation of existing AEDs in a SaveStation cabinet available to the public 24/7, 365 days per year.

• Create awareness of locations of AEDs.

• Educate the public on the use and importance of AEDs.

Vogel, a member of the Mended Hearts organization, suffered a heart attack on Mother's Day 2004 and has been advocating for about eight years to help increase awareness of necessary quick response time needed.

To contact Vogel for additional information email him at Joel@AdvocatesForHealth.net or call him at 855-728-7828.

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## Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

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# Navy veteran Twedt served in Vietnam Still time to join nature hikes

The American Legion is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2019. In addition to national and state-wide 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.

by Tom Klecker

## Michael Duane Twedt, 70 U.S. Navy, Vietnam Era

Michael "Mike" Twedt was born in an old house that was converted into Watertown, Minnesota's, only medical facility at the time. Watertown is a small community in Carver County along the banks of the Crow River. Later Mike lived in Mound and Eden Valley.

Twedt's father owned and operated the town's dry cleaning business. He can still smell the pungent naphtha used back then as a cleaning agent.

Twedt attended Eden Valley grade and high school. At the time, he had a pronounced problem with stuttering for which he was often teased. His athletic prowess in football, basketball and baseball offset some of the teasing as he developed team friendships.

Twedt's mother died at the age of 39. He was only 15 years old at the time. The death of his mother understandably had a painful and disruptive impact on Mike and his 10 siblings.

Sometime later the family moved to St. Cloud. His father played in a polka band, remarried and thus established with his new wife a blended family.

In his senior year, Twedt arranged to move back to Eden Valley to play sports and to graduate from there. Twedt graduated in 1966. He was 18 years old.

At the time, it seemed as if all his friends were joining the Navy under what Twedt calls the Buddy System. He signed up in Litchfield for a four-year hitch.

Twedt completed basic training in San Diego, California. After a seven-day pass home, he was ordered to Long Beach, California, where he was assigned to the USS Kearsarge. This converted air craft carrier became an amphibious assault ship (LHD-3). Twedt began a tour of duty at Yankee Station off the coast of Vietnam (1967-1968).

His duties involved working



Mike Twedt in 1968.

below deck on the air conditioning and refrigeration units. This six-month tour provided stop overs in Hong Kong and the Philippines.

For a short time the ship positioned off the coast of North Korea in response to the capture of the USS Pueblo. The Pueblo, an intelligence gathering ship, was seized on Jan. 23, 1968, by North Korea.

Returning back to the states, Twedt attended Class "A" School at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, Illinois.

After four months of schooling, Twedt achieved the rank of petty officer third class machinist-mate. He was then transferred to the USS Lexington, an Essex Class aircraft carrier. Built during World War II, its nickname was The Blue Ghost. When Twedt joined the Lexington, she was in dry dock for repairs at the Boston Navy Yard.

This large ship was suspended so the barnacles and lead-base paint could be sandblasted off the hull. Twedt earned extra pay for going below and underneath the ship to shovel away the contaminated sand.

While stationed in Boston, Twedt met his wife-to-be at an enlisted man's club. However his ship soon departed for Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida. Smitten by her charms, Twedt would grab a standby flight back to Boston as often as possible. Shortly afterward, they were married in a "very small wedding" (Dec. 27, 1970).

Twedt spent the next two years on the Lexington. The Lexington was used to train new Navy pilots in takeoffs and landings on a moving carrier. He recalls that "some of the landings were not pretty." He reports the Lexington recorded a quarter million takeoffs and landings.

Twedt was discharged from the Navy on March 29, 1971. He and his new wife drove to Minneso-



Mike Twedt

ta. His wife shortly determined Minnesota was not for her and insisted they move back to Massachusetts.

Twedt lived on the east coast for 30 years and worked at a variety of jobs. His daughter Kelly was born in 1974. At the age of 28, Twedt went through a painful divorce.

In 1996, he moved back to the St. Cloud area. His brother fixed him up on a blind date with Geraldine (Geri). After a period of dating, Mike and Geri married in June of 1998. They have been married for 21 years.

When he returned to Minnesota, Twedt worked in Alexandria for Douglas Machine and in St. Cloud for the Veterans Administration Hospital. He retired in 2011.

Between Geri and Mike they have six grandchildren.

Geri, originally from Waite Park, worked in community education. Both now retired, these two soul mates enjoy their pristine place in the country - north of St Joseph. They both share a love for gardening, bird watching, biking, traveling (just back from Norway), reading, golfing and volunteering.

by Cori Hilsgen  
news@thenewsleaders.com

If you missed the first hike, you still have a chance to catch the next four at St. John's Outdoor University.

The Outdoor University is hosting its first hiking series using the book "The Nature of St. John's" as a guide.

"This is a series 'where book club meets hiking club,'" said Jenny Kutter, department coordinator for Outdoor University.

The book, published in 2015, is a field guide to the natural and human history of St. John's Abbey Arboretum, divided into six hiking trails that include Prairie-Wetlands, Savanna-Prairie, Chapel, Deep Woods, Old Road and Pine Knob.

Each chapter of the book includes a map, description of the trail, history about the landscape and a short list of plant and animal species that can be found.

Using the field guide, along with the experience of the hike leaders, Kutter said organizers hope people will enjoy both the benefits of an outdoor hike as well as gain skills and knowledge for "reading the landscape," which will give them a deeper connection to the land.

Environmental educator Kyle Rauch is planning and leading the hiking series. He will be leading each of the hikes and a different special guest will accompany participants on each of them.

Rauch said leading interpretive hikes has been, in some way, a part of his 12-year career in outdoor education. This hiking series, however, will be different from others he's led because the chosen hikes are based on the layout of a book.

He said each chapter of the book leads the reader along a trail that, as hikers, participants will walk allowing them to ex-



contributed photo

St. John's Outdoor University is hosting its first hiking series using the book "The Nature of St. John's" as a field guide. Participants are encouraged to read sections of the field guide prior to joining each hike, four of five which are still scheduled.

perience firsthand the material discussed in the book in addition to other wonders of the Abbey Arboretum during the upcoming hikes.

Rauch said the hikes will complement the book and a field guide always complements a hike.

The first Prairie Wetland and Savanna Trails hike took place Sept. 19, but there is still a chance to join any of the re-

Participants • back page

## CRAFT-VENDOR SALES

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## Legislators Refugee/immigrant news: Homework Helpers return

from front page

the building explaining in detail what the center would look like.

The planned 40,000-square-foot center would host space for residents off all ages. Before the tour, Jerry and Patty Wetterling spoke to the visitors about the need for a youth center and what has been a 40-year dream. The Jacob Wetterling Recreational Center would be part of the complex with recreational and gathering space. Jacob was abducted and killed in 1989 but the case was not solved until 2016.

In addition to seeing the space and hearing plans for it, the visiting legislators asked questions about programming and other available recreation and community resources. Schultz told the group about the new Kennedy Community School on the south side of the city, but explained that students go to high school in St. Cloud and that the nearest YMCA is at least a 20-minute drive away.

The community center project is one of three legislative bonding requests. Demuth and Howe introduced bills this session asking for \$300,000 for East Park and \$1.5 million for a pedestrian crossing at CR 75. Similar measures were introduced in the previous legislative session but failed to win approval in the 2018 bonding bill.

Demuth and Schultz said of the three requests, the community center is the city's top priority.

The bonding bills will be considered by the committee when the Legislature meets again starting Feb. 11, 2020.

*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.*

Homework Helpers will again welcome students in grades one to 12 who seek help with homework assignments or who wish to improve their skills in reading, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, social studies, science or language arts. College students and community volunteers will tutor students from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons in classrooms at the College of St. Benedict.

Fall classes started Sept. 17 and will end Dec. 5. Tutoring will resume after St. Benedict's winter break in mid-January and continue through the end of the spring semester in early May.

Parents need to complete a permission form when they first bring their children to help us keep in contact with them, learn about each child's special needs and to contact health-care providers in the event of an emergency. Jane and Dave Leitzman will again direct this program (home phone: 363-4386; cell: 320-291-6730; Email: jane.leitzman@gmail.com).

All children are welcome at Homework Helpers. Most of the students we tutor are enrolled at Kennedy Community School. We also serve area students

from Rocori, Apollo and Technical high schools. Tutors assist elementary children with homework assignments in arithmetic, reading, spelling and writing. Older students often seek help in mathematics, language arts, the sciences and social studies.

Homework Helpers is a program within Cultural Bridges, a volunteer community organization founded by St. Joseph residents to welcome and support our Somali neighbors. The organization and its programs are sponsored by the Sisters of St. Benedict, the College of St. Benedict, Resurrection Lutheran Church and the Church of St. Joseph. Cultural Bridges is affiliated with and draws support for our work with the Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization.

Cultural Bridges also offers adult ESL instruction with the support of the St. Cloud school district and assists residents seeking employment.

English classes for adults whose native language is not English have been scheduled.

Monday and Wednesday classes are from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Spirituality Center near the College of St. Benedict. Take Minnesota Street to Third Street and turn left through the north entrance gate. At the stop sign, turn right and then take the first left and park.

Tuesday and Thursday classes are from 6:30-8 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic School, 32 Minnesota St. W.

If you have any questions, please contact Juliana Howard at 715-791-8976 or Jamal Elmi, 320-310-2351.



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# Vaccines For Your Pet

Just like humans, pets are able to receive vaccines to prevent illness. Vaccines have been considered as one of the most effective ways to keep your pet in peak health. Talk to your veterinarian to determine which vaccines will be the most beneficial to your pet.

Vaccines are used to prepare your pet's immune system to fight incoming diseases. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals reports that these vaccines use an antigen to trick your pet's immune system into believing a disease is present. An antigen is a toxin that creates a response from an immune system without causing an actual disease. This prepares your pet's body to recognize and fight off an actual attack of this simulated disease.

## WHEN TO VACCINATE

You will need to talk to your pet's primary veterinarian to determine the best time to vaccinate. There are different variables that will determine the frequency. These variables include the type of vaccine, your pet's age, medical history and its lifestyle.

Puppies and kittens receive most of the antibodies they need to fight off disease from their mother's milk. This means once your pet has been weaned from nursing, it is time to consult a vet and begin vaccines to replace the antibodies they are no longer receiving.

## TYPES OF VACCINES

There are certain vaccines that most states require by law. For instance, almost all states require a mandatory rabies

vaccine. Some require the vaccine to be administered annually, while some require it every three years. Consult with your vet to determine the requirements of your state's law.

A case of parvovirus can be deadly for a new puppy. It is

recommended to begin your puppy on the anti-parvovirus vaccine between six and eight weeks of age. Other common vaccines for dogs include distemper and canine hepatitis. Cats also are commonly given rabies shots as well as feline leukemia vaccines.

## RISKS OF VACCINATING

Giving your pet a vaccination will mildly stimulate its immune system. This may make your pet become a bit sluggish or even cause a slight fever. This is normal, but you can relieve any worry by scheduling a visit with your

vet.

The ASPCA states that in most cases, the risks of side effects are much smaller than the risk of the actual disease. Be upfront and clear with your vet about your pet's medical history before beginning vaccinations.



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# Opinion

## Our View

### Area legislators deliver votes on conservative agenda

If you are a political conservative, a recent report about the Minnesota Legislature has good news for you. If you're a liberal, the news is that you've got to work much harder to elect legislators who represent your views.

The American Conservative Union released its ratings of Minnesota Legislators and the three people who represent our area received high scores.

Founded in 1964, the ACU is the nation's oldest conservative lobbying organization. The group advocates for political action that guarantees free exercise of individual rights by strictly limiting the power of government. It "seeks to preserve and protect the values of life, liberty and property for every American."

To calculate this year's ratings, the ACU selected a range of bills to determine a member's adherence to conservative principles. As the report's introduction says, "We selected bills that focus on Ronald Reagan's philosophy of the 'three-legged stool': fiscal and economic, social and cultural, and government integrity."

The ACU assigned scores to 17 Senate bills and 30 House bills and then calculated ratings for each member.

In the Senate, first-term member Jeff Howe (R-Rockville) received a 94 percent score for voting with the group's positions. He was one of only seven senators who received the ACU's Award for Conservative Excellence.

A special election in Senate District 13 sent Howe to the upper chamber after he served in the House. Howe's most recent rating improved from 77 percent when he was a House member and his career rating of 88 percent.

Over in the House, Tim O'Driscoll (R-Sartell) joined Howe with an Award for Conservative Excellence with a 90 percent rating. His lifetime score is 87 percent.

Freshman House member, Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring), needs to pick up the pace if she wants to join her colleagues in the conservatives' ring of honor. She "only" rated 77 percent.

Howe lost points by missing a vote to improve Affordable Care Act enrollment with tax credits. The ACU opposed that measure, SF 761, which failed in the Senate and did not advance in the House. Howe voted in favor of a bill regulating licensing for assisted-living providers that was opposed by the ACU.

In the House, O'Driscoll also voted for the assisted-living licensing. He also voted to include e-cigarettes and vaping in the law that already prohibits smoking in restaurants, workplaces and public spaces. The ACU believes the use of tobacco and e-cigarettes is a matter of individual liberty and that it infringes on the right of businesses and workplaces to set their own policies. The House passed the bill and, after the Senate approved a similar measure, it became law.

Demuth joined O'Driscoll by voting for the e-cigarette measure and the assisted-living regulations. She missed eight of the 30 votes in the ACU ratings so that may have lowered her score. Several of those were amendments to bills that included assisted-living facilities and Medicaid.

Demuth split from the ACU by voting in favor of the hands-free phone bill that has become law. O'Driscoll did not vote on that bill. She also voted for a bill that favored licensing for early education teachers. The ACU opposed the additional licensing.

Of course, there are many measures of how well our legislators represent our wishes but the ACU is the gold standard for promoting conservative policies. Our area elected three Republican legislators and they have certainly delivered on a conservative agenda.

## Why are athletes dropping football?

Sports Illustrated is one of my favorite publications for its dramatic photos, great writing and long-form journalism. Player profiles dig deeper than just reporting on-field accomplishments and are really mini biographies. Behind-the-scenes game stories report emotions and insights that are invisible while watching the event on TV or even in the stands. Well-researched investigations expose corruption and abuse at all levels of sports.

Usually SI sticks to the entertainment and business aspects of sports. But a recent issue drifted into the world of politics.

Two events inspired a closer look at high school football. First, Indianapolis quarterback Andrew Luck announced he's retiring at age 29 after several seasons of injuries, leaving behind years of playing and millions of dollars.

Then a new study from the National Federation of State High School Associations released its annual report for 2018-19. The report found for the first time in 30 years, participation in high school sports declined.

The two biggest contributors to the decline were football and basketball. The nationwide participation in football dropped to the lowest number since the 1999-2000 school year, according to the report.

And that was the statistical starting point for the Sports Illustrated trip into the land of politics.

The reporter looked at the state-by-state participation numbers and concluded participation mirrors the red state-blue state partisan divide.

Football participation is up in four "red" states – Alabama, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Utah – all states that voted for Donald Trump by at least 18 percentage points.

Of states that voted for Hillary Clinton,

**Mike Knaak**  
Editor



only Nevada and Washington, D.C., have seen football participation rates rise in the last 10 years.

According to SI and the high school report, football participation in red states was down 6.1 percent compared with a drop of 15.7 percent in blue states.

How much has the concussion debate and concern about long-lasting injuries affected football participation? Seventy-five years ago, boxing was one of the three most popular sports. It's now a niche sport.

In Minnesota, compared with other sports, football remains popular. The report says 23,185 students played football – that's about 18 percent of all boys in sports. There were more participants 10 years ago, but football's share of players, 20 percent back then, hasn't changed much.

Fans certainly haven't turned away from the game, at least at the professional level. According to SI, the NFL's TV ratings rose 5 percent last year and 46 of the top 50 telecasts during 2018 season belonged to the league.

For Minnesota sports fans, there are the Vikings and then far below, everyone else. The Twins appear headed for postseason play, the Wild continually sell out even while not making the playoffs and the Lynx won four WNBA championships in the last 10 years. But only Vikings games bring the state to a halt. If you ventured

away from a TV during last Sunday's game at Green Bay, you found empty streets and stores.

Perhaps the football numbers have less to do with the red state-blue state divide than with demographics or choices.

"We know from recent surveys the number of kids involved in youth sports has been declining, and a decline in the number of public school students has been predicted for a number of years, so we knew our 'streak' might end someday," said Karissa Niehoff, NFHS executive director. "While we recognize the decline in football participation is due, in part, to concerns about the risk of injury, we continue to work with our member state associations, the nation's high schools and other groups to make the sport as safe as possible."

Other sports are seeing increases, according to the report. Participation in girls lacrosse and boys lacrosse has increased 19 percent since 2012 with a combined 213,452 participants in 2018-19. Girls and boys soccer gained 70,668 participants since 2012 (a 9 percent increase) and now has a combined 853,182 participants nationwide.

Twenty years ago, soccer programs were just getting established and in the last 10 years, lacrosse slowly moved from club status to an approved high school sport. The high school associations' data goes back to 1969 and in those early years there are many blank spots in the charts for those and other sports because there were no teams.

Maybe SI is correct...that politics, culture and geography drive football participation. But today's student athletes have many more choices and concern for injury certainly affects those choices.

## Gerrymandering erodes our democracy

Gerrymandering is not exactly a household word. It ought to be; it undermines our democracy.

The cartoon character, Pogo, had it right years ago when he said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Volume I of the Mueller Report details the alarming extent of Russian interference in our electoral process. The meddling has yet to be addressed with the full attention it deserves, making it all but inevitable it will happen again in the 2020 presidential election.

In the meantime, back to Pogo, the enemy is us. As if Russian electoral sabotage is not bad enough, partisan termites are at work, eating at the electoral process. There are widespread attempts at voter suppression, such as moving voting polls far from towns to make them inconvenient to prospective voters, the purging of eligible voters from rolls based on specious reasons, limiting early-voting opportunities; placing onerous requirements on the processes of voting registration so prospective voters have to jump through hoops and hurdles (all supposedly because of "voting fraud," which is virtually nonexistent) and the Electoral College way of granting votes (a needless relic of the past in which the one who gets the most popular votes can lose, as did Hillary and Al Gore). And last, but certainly not least, is gerrymandering.

Every 10 years, based on census results, all political boundary lines in the United States must be redrawn to reflect shifts in population within each state. The process is supposed to make it so there are about the same number of people (about 711,000) in each of a state's congressional

**Dennis Dalman**  
Reporter



districts – the ones from which representatives to the U.S. Congress are elected.

Gerrymandering is a form of cheating. It's drawing the boundary lines in a skewed way so a district contains far more Republicans (or Democrats), thus almost guaranteeing a partisan slant come election time. It is, in brief, a way to consolidate party power in election after election. One party, one rule.

In most states, the party in power in a state's legislature is the one that gets to draw the boundary lines. In the past 10 years, Republicans have controlled most state legislatures, and gerrymandering has been rampant, thus favoring their chances to win repeatedly.

Gerrymandering has been challenged in the courts many times in many states, and so the tug of war goes on. Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 opinion, decided to take a hands-off approach to challenges to gerrymandering in federal courts. In her dissenting opinion, Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan issued a red-light warning about the Court's short-sighted decision.

"The practices challenged in these cases," she wrote, "imperil our system of government. Part of the Court's role in that system is to defend its foundations. None is more important than free and fair elections."

North Carolina and Texas, to name just two, are notorious for gerrymandered districts that favor Republicans, though to be sure both parties have indulged in the process throughout history. The many devious tactics used by gerrymanderers are as crooked as stealing ballots from a ballot box, a crude violation of the one person, one vote principle.

The odd name, gerrymandering, was named after a ridiculously odd-shaped legislative district in Massachusetts in 1812. That state's governor, Elbridge Gerry, signed a bill into law to create an outrageously partisan district near Boston. The boundary lines were so tortuously skewed a newspaper at the time noted the new district resembled the shape of a salamander – thus gerry- (after Gov. Gerry) and – mander (from salamander).

Some states wisely have commissions do the redistricting -- commissions that range from non-partisan to bi-partisan. A few others appoint independent commissions of experts to do the job.

The vast majority of states (37), however, (including Minnesota), persist in letting the party in control draw the lines.

Someday, let us hope, all citizens and legislators will see the light and demand independent commissions draw the lines in every state.

Meantime, sad to say, the 2020 election will likely be the most contentious in American history what with Russian meddling, voter suppression and – yes – gerrymandering.

When voters lose faith in the integrity of the electoral process, democracy – the very foundation of our country – can erode very quickly.



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](mailto: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, Sept. 20**  
**Burger and brat sale**, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.  
**St. Cloud Singles Club Dance**, 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. [stcloudsingles.net](http://stcloudsingles.net).  
**St. Joseph Farmers' Market Harvest Festival**, 3-7 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

**Saturday, Sept. 21**  
**Burger and brat sale**, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.

**Sunday, Sept. 22**  
**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](mailto:centralmncw@gmail.com).

**Monday, Sept. 23**  
**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.

**Tuesday, Sept. 24**  
**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., Town Hall, 27724 CR 50.

**Thursday, Sept. 26**  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf**, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

**Friday, Sept. 27**  
**St. Joseph Farmers' Market**, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

**Saturday, Sept. 28**  
**Craft and Vendor Show fundraiser**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Moose Lodge, 1300 Third St. N., Waite Park.  
**Pins to Pearls Quilt Show**, presented by St. Cloud Heritage Quilters, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Haehn Center, College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph. [stcloud-heritagequilters.com](http://stcloud-heritagequilters.com).  
**Rocktoberfest**, fundraiser for St. Joseph Catholic School, downtown St. Joseph. Gates open at 3:30 p.m., music begins and keg tapping at 4 p.m., buffet times are 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 29**  
**Pins to Pearls Quilt Show**, presented by St. Cloud Heritage Quilters, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Haehn Center, College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph. [stcloud-heritagequilters.com](http://stcloud-heritagequilters.com).  
**Millstream Arts Festival**, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., downtown St. Joseph. Regional artists in-

cluding pottery, jewelry, fiber, glass, wood, painting, leather and photography.

**Burger and brat sale**, sponsored by American Legion Post 328, Millstream Arts Festival.

**Monday, Sept. 30**  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf**, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.  
**St. Joseph City Council Workshop**, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E., St. Joseph.

**Tuesday, Oct. 1**  
**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, Oct. 2**  
**Advocates for Independence**, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.  
**St. Cloud school district board meeting and work session**, 6 p.m., District Adminis-

tration Office, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park.

**Thursday, Oct. 3**  
**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, Oct. 4**  
**St. Joseph Farmers' Market**, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

**Saturday, Oct. 5**  
**Craft vendor sales**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave., N., Waite Park.  
**Sartell Birthday Party**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell. Trolley tours at 11 a.m. and noon, model train display, classic car show, Riverside Jazz Band, children's activities, door prizes and refreshments. Oct. 5 marks the 112th anniversary of the founding of Sartell.

*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 [tricontycrimestoppers.org](http://tricontycrimestoppers.org). Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.*

**Aug. 31**  
10:21 a.m. Collision. College Avenue N. and CR 75. The driver of vehicle one failed to yield to the driver of vehicle two.

**Sept. 4**  
1:03 p.m. Fraud. Morningside Loop. A woman doing freelance work reported receiving a check from a business in Taunton, Massachusetts. She took the

check to the bank and learned it was from a fake account. The FedEx tracking number was not on file. No loss of money occurred.

10:43 p.m. Crash. Cedar Street E. A vehicle crashed through the fence at Campus Villa Apartments. The driver said he/she accidentally hit the gas instead of the brake. There were no injuries.

**Sept. 8**  
1:18 a.m. Fight. Minnesota Street W. An officer witnessed what appeared to be an argument outside Sal's Bar. One person pushed another person to his back. The officer could not find the victim and give the person doing the pushing a warning.

**Sept. 12**  
4:27 p.m. Collision. CR 75 and Second Avenue NW. Officers were dispatched to a crash with unknown injuries. Officers learned a vehicle on Second Avenue was stopped to make a left turn to CR 75. A vehicle traveling east on CR 75 struck a trailer being towed by the turning vehicle.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Wine and Whiskey Walk in West Des Moines, Friday, September 20, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Ten sample drinks for \$20. For details go to [whiskeywalk.dmcityview.com](http://whiskeywalk.dmcityview.com). (MCN)

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# City loan will help planned restaurant start cooking

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A loan from St. Joseph's Economic Development Authority is intended to help a new restaurant planned for downtown to start cooking.

The St. Joseph City Council approved Sept. 5 a \$52,500 loan for Krewe Restaurant and Bakery planned for the ground floor of the 24 North Lofts building on College Avenue.

The final loan agreement is being drafted by attorneys.

The Cajun-themed restaurant and Scandinavian bakery had planned to open in April 2019.

The loan agreement calls for the loan to be repaid over seven years at an interest rate of 3 percent.

According to the agreement, the city will receive an interest in the business assets such as kitchen equipment and a personal guarantee from the owners.

In announcing the restaurant plans earlier this year, building co-owner Jon Petters called Krewe "the shining star of downtown St. Joseph" that also includes other dining and entertainment businesses such as Bad Habit, Bello Cucina, Gary's Pizza, Sliced and Bo Diddley's.

## Participants

from page 3

maining hikes. Participants are encouraged to read the field guide before joining each hike. The distance and terrain of each hike will be different, but they are usually between 2-4 miles long. People can join one or all of the remaining hikes.

Hike 2 will take place from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 13. It is a 3-4 mile hike of the Deep Woods Trail. Participants should read pages 95-130 of the field guide and meet at the Sugar Shack.

Hike 3 will take place from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6. It is a 2-3 mile hike of the Old Road Trail. Participants should read pages 131-154 of the field guide and meet at the Old Entrance Road gate (past the St. John's Prep School).

Hike 4 will take place from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Dec. 14. It is a 3-4 mile hike of the Chapel Trail. Participants should read pages 65-93 of the field guide and meet at the Abbey Bell Banner.

Hike 5 will take place 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Jan. 18. It is a 3-4 mile hike of the Pine Knob Trail. Participants should read pages 155-179 of the field guide and meet at the Old Entrance Road gates (past the St. John's Prep School).

The hikes are open to the public and are family-friendly. Dogs and bicycles are not allowed in the Abbey Arboretum. No registration or fee is required.

The guidebook is available for purchase at the St. John's University Bookstore, in person or online, Barnes & Noble, Amazon and other booksellers.

For additional information, visit the csbsju.edu/outdooru/events website and click on the Monthly September-January Hiking Series.

## News Tips?

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(800) 818-5836 murphygranite.com



**JOIN US! HARVEST FESTIVAL TODAY!**

**SAINT JOSEPH FARMERS' MARKET**

**20th Annual Harvest Festival Sept. 20 from 3-7 p.m.**

- Live Music
- Face painting
- Magician
- Balloon animals
- Pumpkin
- Kids' craft table
- Apple cider & pie by the slice
- Food vending & samples by local vendors

**Come shop, stay for dinner and pie!**

SUMMER MARKET CONTINUING WEEKLY INTO OCTOBER  
**EVERY FRIDAY from 3-6 p.m.**  
Held beside Resurrection Lutheran Church  
610 N. County Road 2, St. Joseph  
[www.stjosephfarmersmarket.com](http://www.stjosephfarmersmarket.com)

**WE ACCEPT E.B.T., CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS.**

**buzzed driving is drunk driving**  
designate a sober driver

**music, food, friends & fun**

**FrantoberFest** parish festival

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY • SARTELL

**SEPTEMBER 21-22** Details at [stfrancissartell.org](http://stfrancissartell.org)

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

- 8:30 am Franny Flyer Kids 1k Fun Run
- 9:00 am Franny Flyer 5k/10k Walk/Run
- 4:00 pm Mass followed by activities till 9:00 pm

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 22**

- 8:30 - Noon - Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast
- 12 Noon - Grand Raffle /Cash Prize Drawing
- 12 Noon- Silent Auction Closes

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
A MEMBER OF SAINTS OF THE GREAT LAKES