

# Newsleaders

Reaching Everybody!

Friday, Sept. 6, 2019  
Volume 31, Issue 17  
Est. 1989

## Town Crier

### Farmers' Market open Mondays

The Sartell Farmers' Market is open from 3-6 p.m. Mondays at Bernick's Arena, 1109 First St S, Sartell. Fall is here and so is the squash. You will continue to find great summer vegetables you love, in addition to breads, treats, salsa, honey and much more. We are open every Monday until mid-October.

### Harvest Fest slated for Sept. 20

The 20th annual Harvest Fest, sponsored by the St. Joseph Farmers' Market, will be held from 3-7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, under the water tower near Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 N. CR 2, St. Joseph. The event features live music, a petting zoo, a magician, pumpkin decorating, face painting, balloon animals, kids' craft table, apple cider and pie by the slice, and samples and food for purchase by local vendors.

### Wanted! Future Eagle Scouts!

St. Joseph Cub Scout Pack 84 invites boys and girls (and their parents) grades K-5 to come and be part of the adventure. Join us at the Millstream Pavilion from 6-8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 16, for fun, games and sign-up information. pack84stjoseph@gmail.com.

### Tech High School grand opening

Tech High School celebrates its grand opening with the public at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 16, at Tiger Stadium. Prior to the event, Tech boys and girls cross country athletes will run a torch and flags from the former high school to the new school at 4200 33rd St. S. At 6:45 p.m., there will be self-guided tours of the building.

### Delivery driver wanted

The Newsleaders is 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.

## Zimmer builds memorial pergola at Kennedy for Eagle Scout project

by Cori Hilsgen  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Tenth-grader Brandon Zimmer is an ambitious Boy Scout who recently completed building an outdoor pergola to earn his Eagle Scout award.

By completing the Eagle Scout Service project, Zimmer was able to show his leadership skills while building a project for the benefit of others in the St. Joseph area.

His project included building and installing a pergola and picnic table at Kennedy Community School. He dedicated the project in memory of Darlene Bechtold and Pat Forte, who formerly worked at the school.

Zimmer, the son of Kristi and Randy Zimmer of St. Joseph, attends Apollo High School. He

joined the Boy Scouts when he was 6 years old.

Zimmer said there are several reasons he decided he wanted to build the pergola and table for his Eagle Scout project, but he especially wanted to give something back to remember "Grandma Darlene" and Forte in a way that would also benefit the school.

"Grandma Darlene always had a smile, she was full of love and she always loved to hug the kids," Zimmer said. "Mr. Forte always inspired me to try my best. He gave every kid a nickname and he was always full of energy. Both of these people left a huge impact on not only me but everyone they touched."

Kennedy Principal Anna Willhite commented on Zimmer's project.



contributed project

Brandon Zimmer sits on a table under a pergola he initiated building at Kennedy Community School. The pergola and table were Zimmer's Eagle Scout service project.

"Brandon Zimmer is an exceptional young man," she said. "He is always focused on helping others and doing what

is best for the community. Brandon organized the entire project from start to finish including

Zimmer • page 2

## Annual 'Rock 4 Alzheimer's' event Sept. 14 at new Bad Habit location

by Cori Hilsgen  
news@thenewsleaders.com

If you haven't had a chance to check out the new location of the Bad Habit Brewing Co. in St. Joseph, you will have a chance to do so and also support the annual Rock 4 Alzheimer's event from 1-8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14.

"This year, our fourth, we are very excited to stage Rock 4 Alzheimer's in the parking lot of the all-new Bad Habit Brewery and continue to grow the event," Jeff Vee said.

"Support from the community and sponsors alike has been incredible and we are beyond grateful for this," Tommy Vee said.

The event will immediately follow the Alzheimer's Association/Walk to End Alzheimer's

being held in St. Cloud.

"Sept. 14 is going to be a full day dedicated to raising awareness, critical funds and the ultimate goal of bringing people together who have been impacted by Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias," said Katrice Sisson, community engagement manager of the Alzheimer's Association.

The day kicks off at Lake George with the St. Cloud Walk to End Alzheimer's. Registration is at 9 a.m., the opening ceremony is at 10 a.m., and the walk begins immediately afterward.

The Rock 4 Alzheimer's will be in the parking lot adjacent to the Bad Habit's new location and will be rocking when The Killer Vees, Slip Twister, Collective Unconscious, Walter's Wheelhouse and The Future perform.

In addition to the outdoor main stage, the event will also include a youth talent stage where younger area musicians can perform.

Jeff and Tommy Vee said since their father's passing in 2016, due to complications from Alzheimer's disease, they have become more and more passionate about the cause.

"You realize there are very few people who have not been touched by this horrible disease," Jeff Vee said. "And everyone has a story. An event like Rock 4 Alzheimer's not only can raise awareness and funds, it allows people to share their stories, get support and realize they are not alone in their struggle. This is one of the most important aspects of the event to

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photo courtesy of Tony Peroutky

Bennett Velline and Will Veline (left to right) perform on the youth stage at last year's Rock 4 Alzheimer's event.

## Kennedy students outperform overall district

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Kennedy Community School students performed better than the overall St. Cloud school district scores but below the statewide average in the latest statewide test scores released on Aug. 28 by

the Minnesota Department of Education.

The state performance scores are based on five indicators - achievement and progress on state reading and math tests over time, progress toward English language proficiency, graduation rates and consistent attendance.

The results recognize top performers as well as highlight areas that need improvement and attention.

For example, Kennedy students recorded the second highest score, behind Clearview Elementary School, among the district's elementary and secondary students

for reading achievement. Kennedy's percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards was 57.9 percent, below the statewide percentage of 58.29 but ahead of the district score of 44.92.

Achievement scores are calculated by the number of

Students • page 4



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## Zimmer

### from front page

the design and celebration. We are very proud of Brandon and his accomplishments and are blessed to call him a Kennedy graduate."

To complete the project, Zimmer first had it approved by his scout leaders and then the beneficiary (Kennedy school). He then made sure the family and friends of Bechtold and Forte approved of the project.

Next, Zimmer applied to the Central Minnesota Council office in Sartell. When the project was approved, he began fundraising.

"Thankfully, the St. Joseph Lions Club, the Mark Zimmer Foundation and Kennedy Community School were all willing to donate and support me and my efforts," Zimmer said. "While I was fundraising, I was coordinating with Ms. Holly Nelson, the media specialist from Kennedy, about where she wanted the project to go, and approximately how big it was going to be."

He and other volunteers first installed the posts for the pergola. Tim Haeg of Watab Inc. came with his auger to drill the holes and Zimmer and his fellow troop members leveled,



contributed project

### Members of Boy Scout Troop 84 install the pergola.

secured and backfilled them.

"Sadly, after this step was completed, the weather didn't want to cooperate with us," Zimmer said. "We, luckily, got the stringers running north and south in before it snowed. Once spring came, we were able to gather the rest of our materials and we were able to finish the pergola."

Zimmer was able to coordinate with Kevin Cox of C&L Excavating, Haeg, and his fellow troop members to spread the blacktop millings under the pergola and pack it down so it would be smooth.

When that was completed, he purchased a table frame and the other materials needed to build the table. They placed it under the pergola and drilled holes for a memorial plaque, which he had also purchased. The plaque states "Dedicated

in Loving Memory of Grandma Darlene Bechtold and Mr. Pat Forte. This Eagle Scout Project was completed by Brandon Zimmer Troop 84, 2019."

Both Bechtold and Forte left a huge impact on students and staff at Kennedy.

Bechtold was a local day care provider for 28 years. When she retired, she missed working with children and discovered the Foster Grandparent Program. She worked at Kennedy for 12 years before her death Feb. 5, 2018, after suffering a traumatic stroke. A reading nook in the school's library was formerly dedicated to her.

Forte was a former sixth-grade teacher at Kennedy Community School who died on June 15, 2017, after an 11-year battle with cancer. A rain garden in front of the school was previously dedicated to him.

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## Korean War veterans honored by Post 328



contributed photo

Korean War veterans honored include (from left) John Athman, Carl Stich, Joe Miller, Al Stein, Robert Rice, Gib Stock, Norb Dardis, John Krebsbach, Thomas Moog, Edward Broom, William Lorentz and Thomas Schuller.

American Legion Post 328 in St. Joseph honored Korean War veterans during its 100th anniversary dinner on Aug. 24.

Of the 31 Korean War era

members remaining in the post, 12 attended the dinner. After dinner the veterans were introduced and they spoke about their military service.

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# Annual

from front page

us."

"Every show we do, no matter what the theme is and no matter where we are, we pause and talk for a few minutes about Rock 4 Alzheimer's and our experience, perform one of our dad's tunes, and hopefully offer a sense of support to others (who) may be dealing with Alzheimer's," Tommy Vee said.

Sisson, who has been with the Alzheimer's Association for five years, commented about the music/language/memory connections.

"Music has a way of transcending memory or even language when it is often lost or compromised due to a form of dementia, such as Alzheimer's disease," she said. "We have seen individuals (who) have been unable to speak for quite some time, still have the ability to sing every lyric to their favorite song or a familiar church hymn."

Many volunteers and organizations are involved in coordinating this event. Locally, some include Aaron Rieland and Eric Geier, from Bad Habit, and the many volunteers they coordinate, Jeny Meyer, who handles sponsorships and day-of-show coordination and Mary Kelm, who helps coordinate the youth talent stage.

"We are super excited for the event this year," Rieland said. "We feel as though there is a lot of traction for the event after last year's attendance. We are hoping for fantastic weather and a wonderful crowd of people to help support efforts in curbing this horrible disease."

The family-friendly event will include food vendors and Bad Habit beverages. Admission to the event is a free-will donation.

The new location of the Bad Habit offers visitors increased taproom space, a larger brewing space, an outdoor patio area, private event space and a barrel-aged beer program.

"We are super excited to be

hosting this event at our new location," Rieland said. "We are happy to have our own parking lot we can use for the event. It will give us the availability of about 50 percent more room. Our taproom is about twice the size of the old taproom and our patio is incredibly larger."

To date, the Rock 4 Alzheimer's event with sponsors, donations and other contributions has raised about \$77,000.

The Vees come from a music background and said supporting music and art in Central Minnesota has been very important to their family. With the Rock Around The Clock Cathedral High School fundraiser, School of Rock, Joetown Rocks and Rock 4 Alzheimer's events, they have been bringing the area together around a rock-'n'-roll music event for a good cause for many years.

A portion of the proceeds from the event will go toward the Bobby and Karen Vee Scholarship for Youth Arts and Music in Central Minnesota.

The Rock for Alzheimer's event was created by Jeff Vee and Tommy Vee and the Irene Linn family in conjunction with the St. Cloud chapter of the Alzheimers Association of Minnesota and North Dakota and Bad Habit Brewing Co.

Jeff and Tommy Vee's father, Bobby Vee, was a famous 1960s singer and musician who was diagnosed at age 67 in 2011 with Alzheimer's disease. After his diagnosis, he performed at various retirement shows, including Joetown Rocks, an annual event he helped create. Bobby Vee died Oct. 24, 2016, at the age of 73.

Linn, of Avon, was a widowed mother of five boys, Steve, Phil, Sam, Eric and Mike. She was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease at age 58 in 2009 and died April 19, 2017, at the age of 65.

To register for the St. Cloud Walk to End Alzheimer's visit the [stcloudwalk@alz.org](mailto:stcloudwalk@alz.org) website. To contact the 24/7 Alzheimer's Association Helpline call 800-272-3900 for information and resources.

# Klein served 22 months in Vietnam as a Seabee

*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

**Donald Wilfred Klein, 72, U.S. Navy (Seabees) – Vietnam Era**

Donald Klein was born at St. Cloud Hospital. He and his nine siblings (six brothers and three sisters) were raised on a 12-acre hobby farm just west of St. John's.

At the age of 6, Klein drove tractor provided he could slip down off the seat to reach the clutch. Not unlike his brothers and sisters, he was introduced to farm chores and field work quite young. His oldest brother was killed in a car accident when Don was 14 years old.

His father, a construction supervisor, imparted to Klein a good foundation for mechanical construction interest and aptitude.

Klein attended grade school at St. John's Prep. He then graduated from St. Cloud Technical High School. Klein took all the shop and carpentry classes available to him.

Aware that sooner or later he would be drafted into the military, Klein enlisted in the Navy-Seabees in his senior year. He was 17 years old. He enlisted

under a "buddy system." This three-year active duty enlistment would normally conclude one day before his 21st birthday.

Perhaps it is best to clarify what a Seabee is and is not. Heterography is the study of words or abbreviations that sound the same, but have different spellings and meanings. Initially "CB" stood for "construction battalions"

Seabees are part of the Navy but are not sailors. They are not stationed on ships. They are composed of mobile battalions that go to all parts of the world. Most usually they complete their basic training with the Navy, but also undergo Marine Corps combat training. Their organizational command structure is similar to the Army and Marine Corps (battalion, company, platoon, squad and more) Seabees uniforms are dress Navy blues and Marine fatigues.

Seabees are trained for combat as well as construction. Given the descriptors, it is understandable why being neither a sailor nor a Marine, Seabees tolerated the less reverential moniker "confused bastards" for CB.

Klein was assigned to Seabee Battalion No. 5 in Davisville, Rhode Island. He flew out to join his unit. Since there was a critical shortage of Seabees, he did not go through Navy basic and was given an E-4 Petty Officer rank and rate of a builder. From May until mid-June, Klein was familiarized with Battalion No. 5 where he was then flown to Port Hueneme, California. There he was trained on all available weapons, closely supervised by a Marine Gunnery sergeant and a Marine captain.

Completing that training, Klein was flown to Danang, Vietnam (July, 1966). He was issued a rifle and basic gear and transferred to China Beach to build a number of projects.

From there, his team moved



Donald Klein

to Dong Ha and built a Seabee base near Hue. From up north to near the DMZ and several other locations, they built gun towers, bunkers, landing pads and air strips.

Most of the time Klein and his team lived in tents, ate MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) and were moved around from one location to another by helicopters. His last work assignment was in downtown Saigon. Removed from rocket and mortar attacks, Klein and his team were put up in "a really nice hotel." "We even had our own room with maid service." They remodeled an old consulate for an admiral.

During Klein's 22 months in Vietnam, his team built fortifications, bunkers etc. and more for the Navy, Marines and the Army. Klein loaned his pay out at the customary rate of \$20 for \$10 to those going on R & R.

Klein discovered very quickly why the women work the fields during the day and the young Vietnamese men slept during the day. They were carrying ammo and supplies for the Viet Cong at night.

Klein did not have a sweetheart waiting for him back home so he named his M-14 rifle "Dear John."

Klein saw significant action for which understandably he is reluctant to discuss. He did

**Klein • back page**

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# Students

## from front page

students that meet or exceed standards divided by the number of all students tested.

Kennedy students posted the district's third-highest elementary and middle-school attendance percentage, at 89.83, behind Clearview and Westwood. Average district elementary and middle school attendance was 78.77 and the statewide number was 85.35.

At Kennedy, as well as district-wide, students in subgroups including Hispanic and black students as well as students who are in special-education programs, qualify for free or reduced-price meals or are English Language Learners generally posted lower schools than the overall student population.

Kennedy serves about 740 students in kindergarten

through eighth grade.

At the district's two high schools, scores for attendance and graduation rates both dropped from 2018. At Apollo High School, 77.37 percent of students graduated in four years and 74.82 percent of students attended more than 90 percent of the time. At Tech High School, 79.89 percent of students graduated and 85.29 percent of students attended more than 90 percent of the time.

All those results were below the statewide scores.

Students at both high schools outperformed their peers statewide on Advanced Placement tests.

At Tech, 74 percent who took a test scored at least a 3 on one of the exams. At Apollo, 67 percent achieved at least a 3. The statewide percentage is 66. St. Cloud high schools offer 19 different AP courses and 22 different tests, the highest in the region, according to Lori Posch, execu-

tive director of Learning and Teaching.

District leaders are taking a number of actions to boost performance.

For example, co-teaching efforts pair a classroom teacher with another teacher who's trained in special education or English learning. The two teachers plan together to deliver seamless instruction so English-learning students stay in the grade-level classroom instead of being pulled out, Posch said.

The district is rolling out the Building Assets Reducing Risk program, referred to as BARR, to personalize support for students. Teachers work with groups of students to provide academic, social and emotional support.

Consistent attendance directly affects classroom performance and the district monitors and responds quickly to correct attendance issues, said Marsha Baisch, assistant superintendent of Elementary Education.

The plan for improvement also includes professional de-

velopment for teachers such as a mentoring program for new teachers.

While school leaders look for areas of improvement, they also celebrate successes with teachers and students.

"We want all students to grow and we honor work that went into that growth," said Laurie Putnam, assistant superintendent for Secondary Education.

"Our work is never done," Posch said. "We always want to raise the bar. Every year we look at it and have areas of celebration and always identify areas we can continue to focus on."

To see detailed results from every school and school district, go to the Minnesota Department of Education's website at <http://rc.education.state.mn.us/>

## Blotter

### Aug. 21

3:59 p.m. Collision. Minnesota Street E. and College Avenue S. The driver of vehicle two said he looked down and when he looked up again, the vehicle in front of him had stopped to let in a passenger.

### Aug. 23

3:39 p.m. Crash. Fourth Avenue NE. A woman said her foot slipped off the brake and onto the gas pedal as she approached Casey's. The car struck the right side of the front doors, causing damage to the brick wall. There were no injuries.

### Aug. 28

2:40 p.m. Collision. CR 75 and 20th Avenue SE. Vehicle one was driving west on CR 75 in the southbound turn lane. Driver one slowed while in the turn lane and without stopping attempted to turn south onto 20th Avenue SE. The driver did not see vehicle two traveling east on CR 75. Vehicle one struck vehicle two in the driver's side rear quarter with the front of her vehicle.

### Aug. 19

11:30 a.m. Collision. Elena Lane and Seventh Avenue NE. Two public works vehicles collided. Crews were working on a manhole. Vehicle one backed into vehicle two. There were no injuries.

### Aug. 20

3:13 p.m. 12th Avenue SE. Garbage cans left at the end of a driveway passed the 24-hour city ordinance deadline. The homeowner was advised and she moved the cans.

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photo by Mike Knaak

## New Tech High School opens

Principal Charlie Eisenreich shows off the Commons in the new 320,000-square-foot Tech High School that opened for students on Sept. 3. The \$104.5-million school will serve 1,600 students and replaces the old building, parts of which were more than 100 years old. Rather than long halls of classrooms, the school features three Learning Neighborhoods with windows offering views of the surrounding woods and large interior windows overlooking work spaces for individual students and small groups. The school is designed to make learning visible and the spaces flexible for changing uses, Eisenreich said.

## Refugee news: Potluck and ESL classes

*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.

On Aug. 25, Cultural Bridges sponsored a potluck meal for all St. Joseph residents at Resurrection Lutheran Church to welcome our newer neighbors from Somalia. The film, "Warehoused" about a camp in Somalia, was shown to provide information regarding the conditions from which many refugees have come. Many delicious dishes that are native to other cultures were shared.

Dianne DeVargas was honored for her years of generous service as the leader of Cultural Bridges.

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

Monday and Wednesday classes



contributed photo

People line up for food at the Aug. 25 community potluck at Resurrection Church.

start on Monday, Sept. 9.

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 start on Tuesday, Sept. 10. 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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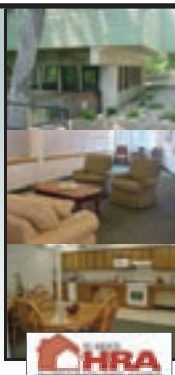
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parish festival

Music by Dave Lumley Solo Acoustic

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**  
Aftershock youth night grades 6-12 - all community youth are invited

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**  
9:00 am - Franny Flyer 1k/5k/10k race  
4:00 pm - Mass featuring worship music by "Random Road"  
5:00-9:00 pm - FrantoberFest - Music by Dave Lumley Solo Acoustic  
• FREE Inflatables and kids games  
• Festival Foods including Brats and Burgers from St. Joe Meat Market  
• Drink - Beaver Island and Bad Habit Octoberfests, Milk and Honey Cider and domestics

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**  
8:00 am -12:00 Noon - Waffle Breakfast  
12:00 Noon - Big Ticket drawing and Silent Auction closes

Worship Music by "Random Road"

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY  
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# Opinion

## Our View

### Test scores provide a guide to close performance gaps

For those of you who like to keep score, the latest test results for Minnesota's schools were released last week.

Called the Minnesota Report Card from the state Department of Education, the scores measure the performance of the state's 890,000 students based on five indicators – achievement and progress on state reading and math tests over time, progress toward English language proficiency, graduation rates and consistent attendance.

The results recognize top performers as well as highlight areas that need improvement and attention.

Scores for individual schools or districts make it easy to compare student performance. But focusing on the topline score for such indicators as overall achievement in math or reading or graduation rates is a mistake.

Teachers and administrators know this. While they are proud of high scores, they quickly point out that continued effort is needed to maintain those results. More importantly, they emphasize using the results to diagnose areas for improvements.

As taxpayers and parents, we should look at those details as well.

For example, even though the Sartell-St. Stephen school district performs well overall, there are programs that need support.

Special-education students and students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals score well below the general student population. Those two groups account for 382 students, a significant population. The new Sartell High School addresses one of those needs. Administrators think the additional space and programs in the new building will improve the special-education score.

In the St. Cloud school district, there are wide swings in individual school scores as well as in each school's student groups.

Kennedy Community School in St. Joseph scores twice as high (52.76 percent) as Lincoln and Discovery in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding math achievement. But for Kennedy's 68 English learners, that achievement score drops to 20.58 percent.

The St. Cloud school district also has challenges that are typical across the state for students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

The report also records chronic absenteeism and how it correlates with performance.

School leaders rightly celebrate accomplishments of high-achieving students such as the number of students taking Advanced Placement classes or ACT scores.

But public schools serve all students and the challenge is to devise programs that raise scores for everyone. The biggest challenges are time and money.

Teachers and administrators are well aware of these challenges.

Whether we are parents of school-age children or not, the rest of us must focus on closing the performance gaps.

Minnesota's public schools serve their most diverse generation of students.

Pulling out tests scores for all students and making comparisons between school districts with widely differing social and economic conditions is dangerous. Even comparing schools in the same district risks misusing the detailed information in the test results.

Closing the performance gaps requires a funding commitment but also a community-wide approach...beyond what goes on in the classroom. Efforts to close gaps start with social issues such as English learners or economic challenges of reducing the number of families who need free school meals.

Test scores should not be viewed merely as a performance measurement but more importantly they should help citizens and their elected leaders diagnose where society needs to focus efforts that result in high performance for all students.

## Crouser captures traditional lifestyle with traditional tools

Making a photograph these days takes nothing more than clicking a smartphone button.

No need to worry about f/stops, shutter speeds or lens selection. Not to mention developing film and using an enlarger to make a print.

Of course the high technology that allows every person to make a photo does not guarantee the person pushing the button is truly a photographer – a person with a special eye that captures a story-telling instant using the perfect lighting and lens.

For those who have grown up with the computer-chip driven instant photography, making photos the slow, old way with film, chemicals, photo paper and more chemicals may seem like a huge waste of time.

My photo career started in the high school darkroom, carefully processing film and making prints. Years later when I could use digital technology as a newspaper photographer, I was happy to leave the darkroom behind. For covering the news, digital's speed and quality can't be beat.

Now, people are rediscovering film, chemical and paper-based photography, just as turntables and vinyl records have found new fans raised on CDs and MP3s.

Photographer Michael Crouser doesn't have to rediscover the pre-digital world. The St. John's University alum never left it behind.

His work is on display at the Alice R. Rogers Gallery and Target Gallery as part of the Visual Arts Series at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's

**Mike Knaak**  
Editor



University.

Crouser's show, "Mountain Ranch: Traditional Images of Traditional Lives," runs through Oct. 20 at the gallery on the St. John's campus. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Hours are from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 9 p.m. on Thursday.

It features photographs from Crouser's third book, "Mountain Ranch," which explores the disappearing world of cattle ranching in the mountains of Colorado. The exhibit also includes work from his first two books: "Los Toros," a book on bullfighting around the world, and "Dog Run," a series on the intense play of dogs in urban dog parks.

Crouser, a 1985 St. John's grad, found his photo calling at Hopkins Junior High School and then set up a darkroom in his family's basement.

He hasn't been without one since. Crouser never fell for the digital genie, preferring to use film cameras.

"It's not a decision based on advantage, it's a decision based on preference," Crouser told Mike Killeen for a news story on the university website. "I really prefer the craft of what I call tactile photography. That means you touch every aspect of it, the film you

put in and take out of the camera, the developing of the film, the drying of your film in the air and the considering of the images to glass and projecting them down to paper. It's all very touchable from start to finish, and I prefer that as a craft to the computer."

I viewed Crouser's photos recently and nothing matches the richness and tone of large, black and white prints made from film.

Crouser's images are timeless moments captured with uncommon patience and an eye for detail. It's easy to stand and examine each image for minutes to appreciate the story behind the photo.

Like his photo tools, "Mountain Ranch" is about tradition and timelessness. The book and exhibit are the products of a 10-year exploration of the disappearing world of cattle ranching in the mountains of Colorado.

According to the exhibit notes, "Crouser has concentrated on the traditional elements of these traditional lives, focusing on how ranching has stayed the same, rather than on how it has changed. Ranchers refer to themselves as an "endangered species" and Crouser's pictures include the vital elements of their life and work, which will disappear as traditional ranching itself goes away.

Like his rancher subjects, Crouser is a traditional photographer whose art has stayed the same, rather than changed. But unlike the ranchers' life and work, Crouser's art will not fade away.

## CBD oil leads to larger debate

In storefronts and on signs around Minnesota lately, you may be seeing a lot more green. No, it's not Christmas yet, but a large number of CBD oil products are being advertised. As the wave of cannabis legalization has swept across the United States, some of its products, and debate, has made its way to our state. So what is CBD oil and what could it mean for the further legalization of cannabis in Minnesota?

To start, the presence of CBD oil in stores does not mean cannabis (colloquially marijuana) is legal for recreational use in this state. Minnesota has a complex framework of laws in place to regulate it. Cannabis possession in Minnesota is illegal but somewhat decriminalized. Possession of 42.5 grams or less will get you a \$200 fine, while anything above that will result in larger fines and/or jail time. Sale and cultivation is highly regulated to medical and industrial producers. Medical marijuana was legalized in 2014 only for specific conditions and only specifically licensed dispensaries are able to distribute the drug.

So why is CBD oil exempt? The main difference between CBD oil and recreational cannabis is that the oil only contains cannabidiol, one of the component substances in the cannabis plant. The substance that produces a high and makes the plant desirable as a drug, THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), is not present in CBD products.

CBD has been touted as being able to help with numerous conditions and ailments. This has led to an explosion of business, with numerous specialty stores opening across the state and existing retailers adding CBD products. However, it has only been approved by the FDA to treat epilepsy as the ingredient in a drug named Epidiolex. Thus,

**Connor Kockler**  
Guest Writer



any health benefits claimed by CBD oil are vague at best until more research is completed.

In addition to bringing cannabis products on the general market for the first time, the debate around medical marijuana and CBD oil has raised the discussion of full-scale legalization in Minnesota. Earlier this year, a new law was proposed in the Legislature that would allow Minnesotans over the age of 21 to possess, buy and grow certain amounts of cannabis. Gov. Walz has also stated legalized cannabis could be a new source of tax revenue and reduce how many people are in jail for drug offenses if done correctly.

On the other side of the debate, Republicans in the Minnesota Senate have largely opposed such moves, arguing not enough has been seen from the states that have legalized cannabis so far, and questioning legalization while the opioid crisis is also ongoing. There are also concerns about driving under the influence of cannabis and whether it is a gateway to other, harder drugs.

A step in a positive direction in my view will be a tour of 15 cities that House Democrats will be making in the coming weeks to talk about the cannabis legalization process. It will also include a stop in St. Cloud on Oct. 12. I think it's important people across the state are consulted and know the facts about cannabis before any legalization effort is pursued.

With CBD oil growing in populari-

ty, I think we as Minnesotans should start thinking about the benefits and risks potential recreational cannabis use could entail. With Republicans and Democrats squaring off over the issue, this also could easily be something to factor into your voting decision in 2020. Ultimately, if legalization does occur, we should be making a decision and crafting laws that will keep people safe while allowing for regulated and secure commerce.

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

## Letter to the editor

### Keep politicians' feet to the fire on gun control

*Juliana Howard, St. Joseph*

Thank you for opinions expressed on the Opinion Page this week. Along with local stories about Bible School and bikers, we read some provocative words on gun control. Facts are facts and need to be put before us. Your use of statistics in Our View make it very clear where the majority of voters stand. And Dennis Dalman's editorial on the power of the NRA to influence lawmakers deserves wide readership.

Good for you, Newsleaders staff! Keep putting our politicians' feet to the fire and keep urging constituents to act now on this crucial issue of gun control.



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. 6**  
**American Legion Auxiliary Bake Sale**, 8:30 a.m., Sentry Bank of St. Joseph, 400 Fourth Ave. NE., St. Joseph. Proceeds fund veterans projects.  
**St. Joseph Farmers' Market**, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

**Monday, Sept. 9**  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf**, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.  
**St. Joseph Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. [city-ofstjoseph.com](http://city-ofstjoseph.com).  
**Women of Today** membership meeting, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave., NE., St. Joseph. Learn about Women of Today activities.  
**St. Joseph Township Board**, 8 p.m., St. Joseph Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S.

**Tuesday, Sept. 10**  
**Holistic Moms Network**, 7-8:30 p.m., Good Earth Co-op, 2010 Veterans Drive, St.

Cloud. 320-252-2489.  
**National Alliance on Mental Health**, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. The group helps parents raising a child with mental illness learn coping skills and develop problem-solving skills. 320-654-1259.

**Wednesday, Sept. 11**  
**Breakfast Club**, 9-10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. Author Phyllis Cole-Dai will discuss her book "Beneath the Same Stars." Free for members, nominal fee for nonmembers. 320-253-8424.

**St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce**, 11:30 a.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. [stjosephchamber.com](http://stjosephchamber.com).

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

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

**Thursday, Sept. 12**  
**Terebinth Refuge breakfast fundraiser**, 7:30-9 a.m., Regency Plaza, 912 St. Germain St., St. Cloud. Benefit to support shelter for sexually exploited and trafficked women and youth in Central Minnesota.  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf**, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

**St. Joseph Senior Citizens**, 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Commu-

nity Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE.  
**St. Cloud Area Mothers of Multiples**, 7 p.m., VFW Granite Post 428, 9 18th Ave. N., St. Cloud.  
**Blue Mass for first responders**, celebrated by Bishop Donald Kettler, 7 p.m., St. Mary's Cathedral, 25 Eighth Ave. S., St. Cloud.

**Friday, Sept. 13**  
**Brats, hot dogs and roast beef sandwiches**, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions Club, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.  
**St. Joseph Farmers' Market**, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

**Saturday, Sept. 14**  
**Brats, hot dogs and roast beef sandwiches**, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions Club, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.  
**Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota**, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

**Sunday, Sept. 15**  
**Stearns County Sheriff's Office Explorers program information meeting**, for youth ages 15-21, 6 p.m. Attendees are requested to RSVP to Deputy Eric Schultz by email at [eric.schultz@co.stearns.mn.us](mailto:eric.schultz@co.stearns.mn.us).

**Monday, Sept. 16**  
**Red Cross Blood Drive**,

noon-6 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park. To schedule 320-363-4664.  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf**, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.  
**St. Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease Support Group**, 1-2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids.  
**Fare for All**, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2 N.  
**St. Joseph City Council**, 6 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. [city-ofstjoseph.com](http://city-ofstjoseph.com).

**St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club**, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 W Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

**Tuesday, Sept. 17**  
**Memory Writers** group develops topics and turns in stories, 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.

**Dementia Friends information session**, 1-2 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell. Learn what dementia is, what it's like to live with the disease and communicate with people who have dementia.

**St. Cloud Area Genealogists**, 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. [stearns-museum.org](http://stearns-museum.org).  
**St. Joseph Lions Club**, 7:30 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion 101 5th Ave NW, St Joseph. Contact Joanne Bechtold 320-363-4483 for more information.

**Wednesday, Sept. 18**  
**Advocates for Independence**, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.  
**St. Cloud school board**, 6:30 p.m., St. Cloud City Hall, 400 Second St. S.

**Thursday, Sept. 19**  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf**, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.  
**American Legion-Sartell**, open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. [john.denney@charter.net](mailto:john.denney@charter.net).

**Friday, Sept. 20**  
**Burger and brat sale**, sponsored by 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**, 3-6 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 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).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lifetime Gun & Coin Collection Auction - 10 am, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019. Guns, sporting goods, gold coins and much more. Old 20 Auctions, 1949 210th St., Manchester, IA, 563-927-2900. [www.old20auctions.com](http://www.old20auctions.com) (MCN)

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 and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.*

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## Klein

from page 3

share the pain of being a squad leader and having two of his guys killed up near the DMZ. Klein has service-connected PTSD.

After 22 months in Vietnam, Klein flew back to the states during the TET offensive in May 1968. After his discharge in Long Beach, California, Klein bought a brand new car. It was a "beautiful looking Oldsmobile" that he drove back home to Minnesota.

Back home in St. Joseph, Klein was unemployed for about a month. On one particular day while "drinking in a bar in St.

Jo(seph)," a masonry contractor offered him a job. Klein worked for the contractor eight years that started a 40-year career in construction. He often commuted wherever the work was and often in the capacity as a foreman or job superintendent. Klein semi-retired in 2007-2008.

Klein met his future wife Erma who was from St. Anna. They dated for a year and a half. They have been married for 51 years. Don and Erma have a 49-year-old son. Erma was an accountant by profession.

Don and Erma enjoy retirement, spending seven to eight months every year in Florida. They return to Minnesota during the warmer months where they live on the home place with their son.

In his spare time, Klein enjoys collecting things – including old German beer steins. As a point of trivia, Klein says during WWII German beer steins did have a pewter metal topper but were removed as the metal was much needed for the German war effort.

In 2007, Klein was involved in a serious car accident.

Klein still likes to tinker with small engines,

At 72, he takes each day as it comes. He is a member of the American Legion Post 328 and also a member of the VFW.

Klein is unapologetically proud of being a Seabee. He says the motto of the Seabees is "the difficult we do immediately . . . the impossible takes a little longer."

## People

**Sen. Jeff Howe**

(R-Rockville) was one of 34 state lawmakers recognized as a Legislator of Distinction by the League of Minnesota Cities, as 2019 Legislators of Distinction. Chosen legislators are honored for specific actions that aided efforts of Minnesota cities during the past year's legislative session.

Howe was the chief author of many League-initiated bills, including a bill that would have fully funded reimbursements to employers for providing continued health-insurance benefits for public safety officers injured in the line of



Howe

duty and dependents of those killed in the line of duty, and a bill that would have created an account to fund local components of state transportation projects.

**Corrie Grosse**, a faculty member at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, was selected by the North American Association for Environmental Education to join its fourth class of Environmental Education 30 Under 30. She will join a growing network of 120 leaders, including teachers, conservationists, researchers and social entrepreneurs. Grosse contributes to this network of leaders by teaching climate justice to students at CSB/SJU. EE 30 Under 30 was created in 2016 to recognize young professionals who are

harnessing the power of education to create a more sustainable future. This year's winners were selected from a pool of more than



Grosse

175 nominees from more than three dozen countries.

**Stearns Bank** has been named one of the Best Banks to Work For in 2019 by American Banker magazine. The Best Banks to Work For program was initiated in 2013 by American Banker and Best Companies Group. It recognizes U.S. banks for outstanding employee satisfaction.



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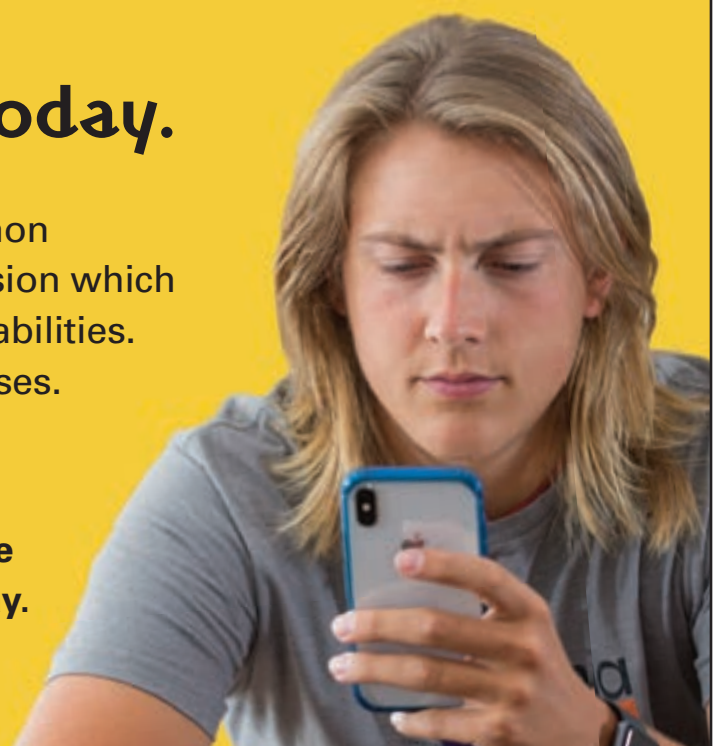
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