

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Oct. 4, 2019
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Est. 1989

Town Crier

Last chance for outdoor Sartell Farmers' Market

The Sartell Farmers' Market is only open two more weeks – from 3-6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7 and 14 – to stock up with all the fall goodies including squash, potatoes, onions, meat, eggs, salsa, caramel corn, bread, honey and much more. The market is held at Bernick's Ice Arena on North Pinecone Road. This is the last two chances until the winter Market inside the Community Center starts Saturday, Nov. 2.

Stearns auction to sell surplus items

Stearns County and Sauk Rapids Police Department will hold a fall auction to sell seized and surplus property on Saturday, Oct. 12 at the Stearns County Public Works building, 455 28th Ave. S., Waite Park, three blocks south of Mill's Fleet Farm. Site opens at 8 a.m.; auction begins at 9:30 a.m. For more information on the auction, a list of what is for sale, and to see some photos, check out the auction flyer on the Stearns County website at midwestauctions.com or auctiondigz.com and click on Benoit Auction Service.

How community change after police killing will be subject of forum

"Community Transformation after the Police Killing of Philando Castile," sponsored by the Eugene J. McCarthy Center, will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17 in Gorecki 204B, on the College of St. Benedict campus. On July 6, 2016, Philando Castile, a 32-year-old black American, was killed by a St. Anthony police officer while driving in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, a suburb of St. Paul. Three years later, the city of Falcon Heights emerged from the tragedy as a model for other communities experiencing rifts in police-community relations. While nothing can bring Castile's life back, join us for a dialogue on how we can all build stronger communities.

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:
Bee Line Service •
Fisher's Club • Woodcrest
of Country Manor



photo by Mike Knaak

Artists take over downtown St. Joseph

Random Road performs for spectators at St. Joseph's Millstream Arts Festival on a soggy Sept. 29. Artists and food vendors filled the streets for the 13th year in downtown St. Joseph.

Eisenschenk receives Legion award

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Elaine Eisenschenk, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 328 in St. Joseph, received the Unit Member of the Year award from the state Department of Minnesota American Legion Auxiliary.

Eisenschenk received the award after being nominated for her volunteer service at St. Cloud VA Health Care System and collecting almost \$7,000 in donations for the unit's Poppy Fund, funds which can only be used for veterans.

As the "Poppy Lady," Eisenschenk volunteered 95 hours on the poppy donation program.

The award was based on what the auxiliary member has done in the past year, March 31, 2018-April 1, 2019.

With 432 units in the State

of Minnesota and almost 8,000 members, this was quite an honor for Eisenschenk. Auxiliary President Rosie Court accepted the award for Eisenschenk, who was in Germany at the time, at the August department convention in Willmar.

The award was submitted by Court and signed by Auxiliary Secretary Ann Reischel, based on the Membership Community Service Hours submitted to Court for the annual reports. These reports are required by all units and were due April 15, 2019, for the 2018-2019 year, to the Auxiliary Department where they are judged and awarded to the Unit Member of the Year.

Eisenschenk said she was "honored and surprised" when she received the award.

Because of the award, Ei-

Award • page 2



contributed photo

Elaine Eisenschenk, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 328 in St. Joseph, received the Unit Member of the Year award from the state Department of Minnesota American Legion for her volunteer service and collecting almost \$7,000 in donations for the Poppy Fund to be used for veterans.

St. Joseph Catholic School focusing on kindness

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

St. Joseph Catholic School Principal Karl Terhaar said students and staff are focusing on a theme of kindness for the 2019-20 school year.

He said by doing so they "will gain a deeper appreciation of making personal con-

nections and learning the value of seeing everyone as a child of God by taking time to be kind to others."

This is Terhaar's 13th year serving as principal at the school so he remains a familiar presence to students, parents and staff.

"I always enjoy spending time with the students," Ter-

haar said. "They are a great group of kids who always has funny stories they share with me."

Many things will stay the same, but the school year will bring a few changes.

A new Spanish teacher, Maureen Frame has joined the staff at the school. Frame previously taught high school Span-

ish in Indiana before moving to the area.

Second-grade teacher Betty Pundsack, who has been teaching at the school for 42 years, will retire at the end of this school year. She had taught around 800 second-graders during those 42 years.

Kindness • page 5

Award

from front page

Eisenschenk received \$800 from the Auxiliary Department of Minnesota to attend the August 23-29, 2019, National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. At the convention, Eisenschenk and the other 50 state members of the year were invited to a breakfast and a special luncheon in their honor where they were awarded a special plaque, a single rose and recognition.

Court attended the National

Convention with Eisenschenk. At the National Convention, members from all levels of the organization, Legion, auxiliary and Sons of American Legion conduct business meetings and learn about mission opportunities. The event also includes a Memorial Service, Commanders Dinner and a patriotic parade.

Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, were guest speakers at the convention. Court said second lady Karen Pence was invited to attend to be awarded the prestigious American Legion Auxiliary Spirit Award, "due to her being an outstanding individual

who has had a positive impact, inspiring others to action for her focus on sacrifices made by veterans, service members and their families across the country."

Pence spoke about the "Legion Act" signed into law on July 30. This legislation changes eligibility dates for veterans to join the American Legion. Under the new law, any honorably discharged veteran who has served since Dec. 7, 1941, may join the American Legion, meaning military veterans who served in what were previously considered periods of peacetime between wars are now eligible for membership. The Legion Act honors thousands of veterans who were wounded or killed on duty and allows six million veterans who were not able to join the American Legion due to gaps in military conflict eras to access American Legion programs and benefits

Pence also spoke about a program replacing the Veterans Choice Program that expands private health -options for veterans.

Court said she and Eisenschenk were both "honored to carry our American Flag for Minnesota along with the other 49 states in the outdoor parade."

"This truly is a special recognition for a member (who) has done so much for our veterans, those still deployed and on active duty and their families," she said. "Elaine truly deserved the award and I was proud and honored to accompany her to the convention where she received many congratulations from Minnesota members and out-of-state members."

The auxiliary unit also received two President's Awards of Excellence at the July Department Convention in Willmar. The awards recognized what the unit accomplished for 2018-19. This included its Leadership and the National Security Program (support of its POW/MIA Programs), April Military Child Month recognition and support, Gold Star Mothers Recognition, hosting an American Cross Bloodmobile, supporting and volunteering at the Old Glory Run, Becky's Troop Care Packages, Eagles Healing Nest, Memorial Day and Veterans Day Programs and Children and Youth Programs.

These two awards were the only two given out for those categories for the 432 units in Minnesota.

The unit also received seven Certificates of Merit for National Security, Legislation, Memorial, Leadership, Children and

Youth, Junior Activities and History.

Eisenschenk and her husband, Lee, have four children and nine grandchildren. They have lived in St. Joseph for 52 years. Lee served in Vietnam in the U.S. Army from 1964-1966 as a heavy equipment operator. He has been in the American Legion Honor Guard for 44 years.

Although Eisenschenk has only been a member of the Auxiliary for four years, Court said because of her positive attitude, dedication and commitment as a member, she has exemplified the American Legion Auxiliary's motto of Service Not Self and mission to support the American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military and their families, both at home and abroad.

Sixth District Auxiliary President Roberta Alvecrog recently appointed Eisenschenk as chairman of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund for the Sixth District for 2019-20.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit of St. Joseph was chartered on July 1922 with 20 members signing the application for charter. The unit currently has 98 members.

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(formerly Index 53)

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Donald P. Schneider
St. Joseph
Dec. 17, 1926-Sept. 22, 2019

Donald P. Schneider, 92, of St. Joseph died Sept. 22 at the VA Medical Center, St. Cloud. His funeral was held Oct. 3 in St. Joseph's Catholic Church in St. Joseph. The Rev. Jerry Weiss officiated. Inurnment with military honors was in the parish cemetery.

Schneider was born on Dec. 17, 1926 in St. Joseph to the late Jacob and Agnes (Zeurlein) Schneider. He served in the U.S. Navy prior to marrying Gladys I. Pfannenstien on Oct. 1, 1949 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in St. Joseph. Schneider was a



Schneider

lifelong member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and a lifelong resident of St. Joseph. He was employed at St. Regis Paper Mill for nearly 40 years. He was also a member of American Legion Post #328 of St. Joseph. Schneider loved baseball, especially the St. Joseph "Joes," the "Saints" and the Minnesota Twins. He was responsible for field maintenance for the St. Joseph "Joes" for many years and the field was dedicated in his name in 2005. He also helped Gladys run the concession stand for more than 40 years.

Schneider was a renowned handyman and people were amazed at his ability to build and fix almost anything. He was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather who has now joined his beloved wife, Gladys. He will be dearly missed and never for-

Obituary

gotten. His legacy is family and a passion for life, country and baseball.

Survivors include his children, Mick of St. Joseph, Pat (Cindi) of St. Joseph, Barbara (Scott) Fritz of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Gerald "Bud" (Therese) of Grand Rapids; 14 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Gladys in 2015; daughter-in-law, Zoe; granddaughter, Jaclyn Schneider; and his granddaughter Wendy's husband, Brian Klinefelter; and brothers, Herman "Boodie",-John, Sylvester, Ray, Cyril and Alfred.

Memorials are preferred in lieu of flowers.

A heartfelt thank you to the amazing staff of Building 49 at the VA Medical Center.

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Kraft delivered fuel to keep the Army moving

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.



Gary Kraft serviced in Vietnam.



Gary Kraft today.

fuel barge transfer site on the Dong Nai River. He supervised pumping fuel off barges and ships. ESSO, Mobile and Dutch Shell were some of the companies that provided petroleum, transportation fuels and lubricants.

In 1862 Napoleon reportedly said, “an army marches on its belly.” Likely true, but a modern army in Vietnam traveled on fuel. More than 50 percent of all tonnage delivered to troops in Vietnam was petroleum products.

The fuel pipelines that transported petroleum product (gasoline and diesel fuel) from the ships were above ground. Kraft says the Viet Cong usually never blew up the lines as they tapped into the pipes at night for this precious commodity. In the morning repairs were made on the pipelines only to repeat that routine frequently.

There were times Kraft functioned as the convoy commander. He was in charge of a convoy of 5,000-gallon fuel tanker trucks transporting much-needed fuel to the surrounding base camps.

Some of the fuel tank farms

by Tom Klecker
Gary Ronald Kraft, 75
U.S. Army – Vietnam Era

Gary Kraft was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He is the youngest of three, (one sister and one brother). He grew up in town where he experienced a “pretty normal childhood.” His father was a railroad conductor. He would usually come home from play only after it got dark.

Kraft was raised in a “traditional Catholic family.” He enjoyed going to the movies. If he saved enough Eddie’s Bread wrappers, he could bid on prizes at the theater. He fondly recalls the drive-in-movie theaters of old.

By temperament, Kraft describes himself as reserved.

He attended and graduated from Central High School in Aberdeen. There were 360 students in his graduating class.

Kraft exhibited a fair measure of athletic prowess in his youth. He played American Legion Baseball. He also played basketball as well as varsity football in high school.

Kraft graduated from high school in 1962 and then enrolled at Northern States Teachers College in Aberdeen. He majored in business and

economics, graduating in 1966.

During high school and throughout college, Kraft worked for the Aberdeen American newspaper. He started out doing odd jobs including cleaning toilets. Over time he progressed to the engraving room and later coordinating deliveries with the carriers. At one point he was writing sports articles for Aberdeen and the surrounding town’s high school athletics.

While in college, Kraft started dating Sharon (1963). They were engaged in 1965. Graduating from college at the age of 22, and, I-A with the local draft board, he started looking for a job.

Kraft was initially interviewed for a job as an insurance claim adjuster. The Chicago company understandably was reluctant to hire him given his military draft status.

Kraft returned to Aberdeen with the intent of joining the National Guard for six years. A recruiter however, put him onto a “college option program.” Kraft essentially volunteered for the draft with the understanding he could upon completing basic training apply for officer’s candidate

school. He could also choose his own occupational training school.

Kraft’s basic army training took him to Fort Dix, New Jersey, for eight weeks and Fort McClellan, Alabama, for advanced infantry training.

From there, he got orders to Fort Lee, Virginia – O.C.S. School. Out of his class of 120, 70 graduated. Kraft graduated seventh in his class.

Shortly thereafter he and Sharon had a small wedding back home in Aberdeen. It was Dec. 21, 1967 (the shortest day of the year). Kraft, now a com-

missioned second lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corp, attended petroleum school in Virginia. He later was assigned to New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, as he awaited orders to Vietnam.

Arriving in Bien Hoa, Vietnam, air base in June, 1968, Kraft was assigned to the 64th Quartermaster Battalion (a battalion is composed of 300-800 soldiers).

He was also assigned to a

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McGee, Glomski prep school students to new year

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

St. John's Prep's 281 students in fifth-grade to 12th-grade were welcomed by new leadership for the 2019-20 school year.

Jon McGee was named the new head of school in March. He is the first lay leader of the school following 29 monastic members of St. John's Abbey, who have led the school since it was founded in 1857.

"We ask students to commit themselves to creating a welcoming community for all, to accept challenge and change, to learn to serve, to grow spiritually and to strive for excellence in all they do," McGee wrote in a letter he recently sent to parents. "I prefer to think of school as a kind of "imaginarium," where every day – not just the first day – we get to ask and answer three questions: IMAGINE what I can learn today, IMAGINE what I can do today and IMAGINE who I can be today. As we begin this new year, we encourage all of our students to reach beyond the temple of their familiar or comfort zone, to try something new or something they are not already good at, to create, to invent, to reimagine."

McGee brings academic leadership and college preparation skills to his position. He graduated from St. John's University in 1984 and earned a master's degree in public affairs from the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Minneapolis, in 1988.

In 1999, McGee joined the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University administration as the director of institutional planning and research after leadership positions at the Minnesota Private College Council and the Minnesota Department of Finance. His work at the colleges has included planning and strategy, enrollment, communications and public affairs.

He and his wife, Ann, live in Cold Spring and have four children. Two have graduated from St. John's Prep and two are attending the school.

Christine Glomski is the new principal working with McGee at St. John's Prep. She earned a bachelor's degree from Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, a master of education degree from St. Mary's University-Twin Cities campus, a doctorate in education from Hamline University, St. Paul, and has superintendent licensure



contributed photo

St. John's Prep School 2019-20 students are pictured on campus. The school has new leadership with Christine Glomski, principal, and John McGee, head of school, for the 2019-20 school year.

from St. Cloud State University.

"My hope for our students is they take advantage of the unique opportunities at St. John's Prep including varsity athletics, special-interest activities and fine arts," Glomski said. "I hope they build strong relationships with both their teachers and classmates."

Glomski brings 10 years of administrative experience in educational programming, setting instructional direction and curriculum evaluation. She also has experience with post-secondary and career guidance for high school students.

Glomski served as principal of Becker Intermediate in Becker, assistant principal and principal of Independence and Liberty Elementary in Big Lake and as dean of students at Forest Lake High School in Forest Lake.

"My 10 years of experience as a principal in other schools compliments the school's strong commitment to preparing students for service and success in a global society," Glomski said. "My genuine love of the Prep School means I bring a special energy and passion to campus each day. I am thrilled for this new year and opportunities it brings to myself, our students and our faculty."

This year, the school has added a fifth-grade pilot program to its middle school. The new pilot program integrates



contributed photo

Christine Glomski, principal, (left) and John McGee, head of school, welcomed students to the 2019-20 school year at St. John's Prep School.

fifth- and sixth-grades to develop strong writing skills, language basics, fine arts and offers a chance for students to progress at higher math levels.

"I am excited these young students get to truly experience the Prep experience that includes meaningful learning opportunities in a gorgeous outdoor setting – we're located in the middle of the St. John's Abbey Arboretum," Glomski said. "For example, language arts, science and other classes are often held outside. Our

students are outside every day, in all types of weather. I hope to build their appreciation of the natural environment while experiencing the full comprehensive curriculum we offer including world languages, science and our incredible fine arts program."

Like McGee, Glomski is also a St. John's Prep parent with three children currently enrolled at the school.

According to Jill Pauly, director of communications and events, this year's students at

St. John's Prep School are from 14 countries and five states. International students represented one-third of the students in ninth- through 12th-grade. Of 222 Minnesota students, about 30 percent are from St. Cloud. Most of the rest come from St. Joseph, Sartell and Cold Spring. There are 107 students in fifth-through eighth-grade and 174 students in ninth- through 12th-grade. Seventy-five percent of the school's faculty and staff have an advanced degree, master's or higher.

Kindness

from front page

Many students remember Pundsack for her love of volleyball, softball, cartwheels, teaching J-Term bird classes, bee-keeping, faith formation, kindness to others and much more.

When Pundsack experienced a cardiac event in 2017, three of her former second-grade students helped save her life.

The school is expanding its robotics program and if they have enough interest, will have a team compete at VEX robotics competitions.

Last spring, the school's Super Hero Day fundraiser raised \$1,500 for the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital to support families/children diagnosed with juvenile arthritis. The funds will be used to make children's hospital stays more comfortable with crafts, games and movies. This year's Super Hero Day is planned for April 24.

This is the school's second year of offering qualifying students a chance to advance a grade level in math and several students are participating in seventh-grade math. Teachers are in their second year of writing and implementing their reading and writing targets and scales to improve students'

Pathways 4 Youth sets live fundraiser Oct. 12 along Division

Did you know St. Cloud has more than 100 homeless youth ages 16-24? Pathways 4 Youth is conducting a live fundraiser from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 along Division Street, across from Gilleland Chevrolet. Experience St. Cloud's reality and help end local youth homelessness. Take action. Donate at pathways4youthmn.org or text PATHWAYS to 21000.



contributed photo

St. Joseph Catholic School principal Karl Terhaar speaks at the school. This is Terhaar's 13th year serving as principal.

skills. The school continues to offer services for students with dyslexia.

Terhaar said nine classroom teachers, three specialists and six support staff are employed at the school. Of the nine classroom teachers, eight have their master's degrees. The classroom teachers average 22 years of teaching experience.

There are currently 36 children enrolled in the preschool

program and kindergarten through sixth-grade classes average 15 students each grade.

St. Joseph Catholic School, other area elementary Catholic Schools and Cathedral High School form Catholic Community Schools.

The St. Joseph Catholic School began in 1856 when a log school and church was built in St. Joseph. The current school was built in 1926.

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Kraft

from front page

came under attack but not usually, as these 350,000 gallon tanks were well protected. In August 196, Kraft was promoted to first lieutenant.

About half way through his one-year deployment in Vietnam, Kraft had a week's R &R with his new bride, Sharon, in Hawaii. As one can well understand it was an emotionally memorable reunion for both.

Sharon returned home to Aberdeen where she stayed with her parents and awaited Kraft's return. It was a difficult time for her.

Kraft's third assignment in Vietnam was that of assistant operations officer at the battalion level back in Long Binh.

In July 1969, Kraft's deployment to Vietnam was over. He flew back to Oakland/San Francisco where he met Sharon. Before returning home they spent a delightful week at Disneyland. While there, he saw the Apollo 11 moon landing (July 1969).

Discharged from active duty, he and Sharon rented a small one-bedroom apartment on the third floor in Aberdeen. But not for long.

Interviewed again in Chicago by the General Adjustment Bureau, Kraft was hired in 1969 as an insurance adjuster. He was assigned to the Minneapolis office.

While they were living in an apartment in Brooklyn Park, they were blessed with their

first daughter (1970). In 1974 as now homeowners in Golden Valley, Sharon gave birth to their second daughter.

After three years Kraft had an opportunity to change jobs which offered him more responsibilities and challenges. He went to work for T.M. Champion Co. in Minneapolis. He became their project manager.

All of these employment opportunities afforded him the time to hone his estimator skills.

In February 1979, Kraft and his family moved to St. Cloud/St. Joseph area. He took a position with Miller Construction as project manager and estimator. He worked for Miller Construction for 11 years. During this time period his third and fourth daughters were born.

In 1989, after prayerful discernment, Kraft took a position at St. Cloud Hospital as construction manager. After 20 years of employment, he retired in 2010 as director of facility development for all of CentraCare operational locations.

Kraft and his family have lived in the St. Joseph area for 40 years. He and Sharon have been married for 52 years. They have four daughters and 13 grandchildren.

Kraft is a past commander of the American Legion Post 328 of St. Joseph. In retirement, he devotes time to exercise, travel and substantial volunteerism. He is a well-anchored man who displays competence and humility in admirable proportions.

Refugee/immigrant news: A successful growing season

Tani waa kuu muhiim adiga. Fadlan aqri.

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.

The Somali gardeners had a successful growing season at the Sisters of St. Benedict community garden.

The weather cooperated with just enough hot weather to ripen the vegetables, but not too hot to burn the plants. There were not any storms that beat down the plants.

The potato bugs were another story. We sprayed the bugs weekly for several weeks and they still devoured the plants. The gardeners will need to decide if they want to plant potato plants next year.

They learned about how to stake up tomato plants, when to harvest and how to weed.

Most of the gardeners want to garden again next year. It is a great opportunity to be able to grow their own food, to have access to fresh produce and to teach their children how vegetables grow.



contributed photo
Fadumo Ibrahim holds Swiss chard grown in the community garden.

If you are reading this and your native language is English, it shows you have interest in our refugees. There is a shortage of volunteers for the English classes for adults whose native language is not

English. Please consider volunteering. Contact Jacob Jantzer at jjantzer@gmail.com.

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

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Band hits the road to play for the troops

by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleaders.com

For this travelin' band, playing a Friday night gig in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and then appearing the next night 500 miles away in Brice Prairie, Wisconsin, is no big deal.

But earlier this summer Sweet Siren really took their act on the road.

The Top-40 and classic-rock band played for U.S. troops at two stops in Germany.

Guitar player and Sartell resident Jeff Schreiner said the eight-day trip in early August was "unbelievable."

"They are away from their families a year at a time," Schreiner said of the troops. "It means a tremendous amount to them that you play for them. They love American bands playing American music."

The band's first stop was at Grafenwöhr Army Base where they headlined three shows as a part of the American German Volkfest, a family style festival.

Then it was on to U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Illesheim for one performance.

Schreiner and his three band mates all have day jobs and the trip would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of their employers, he said.

Schreiner is a driver for Sysco Food Service. Lead singer Carolyn Burgoyne works at Advantage One Insurance, bass player Jethro Arola manages a lumberyard in Menahga and drummer Kent Christen is parts and service manager at Welle Motors in Sauk Centre.

Schreiner, 48, has been in the band 11 years. Sweet Siren plays current Top 40 hits as well as classic rock and country. Jeff grew up in St. Joseph and attended St. Joseph Lab School. He took up the guitar at 15, about the same time he and his future wife Vanessa met at Apollo High School.

Locally, they frequently appear at Benton Station in Sauk Rapids. Just recently they per-



photo by Vanessa Schreiner

Sweet Siren performing at Volkfest (from left) Jeff Schreiner, Kent Christen, Carolyn Burgoyne and Jethro Arola.

formed at the La Playette in St. Joseph.

Armed Forces Entertainment, an agency of the Defense Department, arranged the tour. Sweet Siren's agent, Time Music Agency, has a relationship with Armed Forces Entertainment and helped with the band's application.

The band applied for the tour in the spring but didn't learn until early July that they would be going. And the dates and travel details shifted right up to the last minute.

The military allowed the band to bring three additional people. Accompanying the band were sound technician Mickey Ironi, lights and stage manager Greg Schreiner and Jeff's wife Vanessa who photographed the band's performances.

"We had the times of our lives," Schreiner said. "There was no part that wasn't enjoyable. Seeing the different cul-

ture. The troops were super appreciative."

In Ansbach, Vanessa met a young soldier from California. "Talking about Mexican food he got tears in his eyes," she said. He told her "I'm just so happy that you're here. You're from back home."

The band connected with some Minnesotans too. At Volkfest, they met soldiers from Mankato and St. Peter, one wearing a Twins jersey. At a hotel, the woman behind the counter had moved to Germany from St. Cloud.

Usually the band travels with a truckload of gear, but the military provided all the sound and lighting equipment. The musicians just needed their guitars and drumsticks so they could travel light.

A trip to Germany wouldn't be complete without sampling local beer, which they described as "excellent" and cheap. Re-



photo by Vanessa Schreiner

At Volkfest Jeff Schreiner and Carolyn Burgoyne.

turning to Minnesota, Jeff found a favorite, Paulaner Hefe Weizen, at Westside Liquor.

In Germany, Vanessa said, "beer is cheaper than water."

With his busy work and performing schedule, would Schreiner go on another trip?

"Absolutely."

Stearns County Sheriff squad cars feature new look

The Stearns County deputies will be driving squad cars with a new color and new design.

For at least the last 16 years, squads have been white. The new vehicles will be black with gold lettering and a blue stripe down the side.

New Stearns County Sheriff Steve Soyka formed a group to advise on squad car design and letterhead.

"I had a general idea on the direction I wanted to go with squad car design," Soyka said in a department

newsletter. "The most dramatic switch will be from white to black squads."

The group's input was to have squads that are easily and readily identifiable, yet with a simple design.

"I believe we have accomplished that with this new look," Soyka said.

A new motto has been incorporated into the design. On the back windows on either side will be "committed to our partners, our profession, our communities."



contributed photo

Stearns County's new sheriff squad cars are black with gold lettering and a blue stripe.

Opinion

Extreme positions, rhetoric don't solve issues

Our View

Vaping is public health crisis for young people

Back in 1975, Minnesota was the first state to enact a Clean Indoor Air Act. Although the act did not eliminate smoking in public settings, it did require the creation of “Smoking Permitted” and “No Smoking Areas,” it was still a groundbreaking law at the time. Thirty years later, the Freedom to Breathe Act banned smoking in indoor public spaces and workplaces, including bars and restaurants.

It's time again for Minnesota to take bold action and ban the sale of vaping products until the Food and Drug Administration or the Centers for Disease Control have studied the potential dangers. Let's not follow the path that finally led to tobacco regulations after millions of people died from cancer caused by smoking. Vaping delivers deadly, addictive chemicals just as dangerous as tobacco.

Other states and the federal government are taking limited action.

Massachusetts announced a four-month ban on the sale of all vaping products; Walmart said it would stop selling all e-cigarettes and the FDA announced it had opened a criminal inquiry into the supply chain of vaping products and devices.

In the weeks before that, New York and Michigan imposed bans on sales of flavored products and the Trump administration said it would propose a nationwide ban on most flavored e-cigarette products, including mint and menthol.

The use of e-cigarettes is a public health crisis with use among teenagers and young adults particularly alarming.

As of last week, the CDC reported 805 cases of lung injury associated with vaping. Use among young people, especially males, is significant.

The CDC recorded age and sex data on 373 of those 805 cases. Nearly three-fourths are males and two thirds are 18 to 34. While the products are illegal in Minnesota and most states for people younger than 18, the CDC found that 16 percent of injuries are in that age group with 38 percent occurring in people under age 21.

In addition to the injuries, 17 deaths connected to vaping have been reported, including one in Minnesota.

While cigarette use among teenagers decreased, vaping is on the rise. In 2011, 16 percent of high schoolers reporting smoking in the last month. By 2019 smoking dropped to 6 percent. Meanwhile, vaping has increased from 2 percent to 28 percent in the same time.

A study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse found the increase in vaping last year was “the largest ever recorded for any substance in the 44 years” that it has tracked adolescent drug use.

You can learn more about the dangers of vaping at a program sponsored by the Sartell-St. Stephen school district's Substance-Free Coalition. A speaker from the American Heart Association will lead the discussion at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8 at Sartell Middle School.

Minnesota has taken some small steps. The Legislature passed a law last session that now includes vaping in the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act, limiting places where vaping is legal.

Other proposals include raising the age for legal sale for tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21 and banning the sale of flavored vaping products.

Bolder action is needed. The FDA thoroughly tests drugs and other products before releasing them for widespread sale and use.

The same strict process should be used for this dangerous product. Do the research now but in the meantime, let's not experiment with the state's teenagers.

Resolving public policy disputes in a democracy generally involves serious debate and compromise. Most often, the solution does not come from the far ends of the political spectrum but from somewhere in the middle.

I've covered the news and people who drive public debate for more than 40 years. I've met very few people who are 100 percent right or 100 percent wrong about an issue. But I've received a series of emails the last couple of weeks that challenges that experience.

The folks at Minnesota Gun Rights are trying to build support to block gun safety laws in the next session of the Minnesota Legislature. Apparently, their opposition to red flag laws and universal background checks isn't enough to attract a crowd, so they've come up with a novel idea.

Here's the pitch from the email:

“From right now until Monday at midnight is your LAST chance to enter our drawing to win your very own SIG P229 – the same pistol the Secret Service uses to protect President Donald Trump!... This is the gun the Secret Service uses to protect President Trump from the hordes of violent anti-gun leftists.

“With the 2020 legislative session coming up quickly, I need to get a feel for how mobilized gun owners are statewide, so if you haven't already done so, please fill out your ‘NO WAY on Red Flag Gun Seizures’ pledge right away and let me know if you intend to FIGHT BACK this coming session!”

The email includes an eye-catching graphic with a photo of the handgun offered in the raffle and a drawing of an American Revolution militiaman complete with a tricorn hat. But instead of taking aim with a musket, he's ready to shoot with an assault rifle. That battlefield weapon would have really mowed down the Redcoats.

During the last legislative session, the DFL-controlled state House of Representatives passed two gun-safety actions, but the Republican-controlled Senate opposed them. The first proposal would have expanded background checks to private gun sales. Exceptions would be made for firearm transfers to an immediate family member, transfers while hunting, at a shooting competition or at a gun range.

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

That failed attempt to enact widely supported gun-safety measures riled up Minnesota Gun Rights and they even attacked the Republican leaders who blocked Senate action.

Over the past summer, I and many other residents of the St. Cloud area couldn't help but notice the arrival of the massive new Costco store at the former Heritage Park in St. Cloud. It was a big development for shoppers in the city, and many were understandably excited to have another option for finding deals on purchases. However, the situation isn't all rosy. A lawsuit has been filed alleging that the city of St. Cloud engaged in unethical practices in selling Heritage Park to Costco. These claims deserve to be investigated and shared with the public.

So who is suing the city of St. Cloud? In August 2018, a group calling themselves the Citizens for Government Accountability filed suit in Stearns County District Court, citing concerns about the process through which Costco was able to purchase the land containing Heritage Park to build their store. Just last week, the group revealed their membership, and it contains many prominent people within the St. Cloud business community.

Now hold on, you might say. This is just a bunch of competitors angry that they have to compete with Costco or didn't get to buy and develop the land. They're just mad that they lost the bidding war right?

But that's where things get interesting. The group states there was no competitive sale of the land. When the city of St. Cloud chose to sell Heritage Park to Costco, they contend, the city merely entered into a letter of intent with Cost-

Mike Knaak
Editor



ner, it was also sold for under appraised market value and without the public being informed as they are legally entitled to the subsidy that Costco was being granted.

For those who would say they're happy we got a Costco and the lawsuit should be disregarded because of the business people who are filing it, how do you feel about the city giving up at least \$5 million in revenue for roads and other local services to subsidize one of the largest corporations in the United States coming to town? How would you feel if the city asked for additional taxes from your hard-earned money after giving Costco a \$5 million break?

The case is set for its first court hearing on Friday, Oct. 25. We as residents deserve to know the full truth of what happened and if unethical practices were employed as is alleged. St. Cloud leaders should be held accountable, whether through judicial action or at the ballot box. Perhaps the land should go back up for sale in a truly competitive auction, or Costco should have to pay the actual market rate for the land. Whatever happens, this kind of corruption, if true, should have no place in St. Cloud or this state. It's just up to us to care enough to demand action and reform.

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

Connor Kockler
Guest Writer



Costco sale deserves investigation, accountability



Community Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304., e-mail it to news@thenewsleaders.com. Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.

Friday, 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.
Buckthorn removal, 2-4 p.m., Rockville County Park, 11503 Glacier Road. St. Cloud. Meet in the main parking area by the restrooms.

Sunday, Oct. 6
Breakfast, sponsored by Knights of Columbus, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Church of St. Joseph Heritage Hall, 12 W Minnesota St. A homemade breakfast of sausages, eggs, hash browns, pancakes, fruit, caramel rolls and more.
Breakfast with the St. Stephen Firefighters, 8:30 a.m.-noon, St. Stephen Parish Hall, 103 CR 2.

Monday, Oct. 7
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.
St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.

Tuesday, Oct. 8
Holistic Moms Network, 7-8:30 p.m., Good Earth Cop, 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, Oct. 9
Breakfast Club, 9 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. Free for members, nominal charge for nonmembers.
St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. stjosephchamber.com.

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

Thursday, Oct. 10
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph

Friday,Oct. 11
Brats, hot dogs and roast

beef sandwiches, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions, 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, Oct. 12
Brats, hot dogs and roast beef sandwiches, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions, 9 a.m.-4p.m., St. Joseph Meat Martket, 26 First Ave. NW.
St. Stephen Fire Department Open House, 10 a.m.-noon, St. Stephen Fire & Rescue Station, 2 Sixth Ave. SE.
Buckthorn removal, 2-4 p.m., Rockville County Park, 11503 Glacier Road, St. Cloud. Meet in the main parking area by the restrooms.
Pathways 4 Youth Now that you Know live fundraiser, noon-5 p.m., Division Street across from Gilleland Chevrolet, St. Cloud. pathways4youthmn.org.

Monday, Oct. 14
Fare for All, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2 N.
St. Joseph Planning Commission, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.
Women of Today informational meeting, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Fire Hall, 324 Fourth Ave. NE. Learn more about Women of Today 320-224-5722.
St. Joseph Township

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

Tuesday, Oct. 15
St. Joseph Economic Development Authority, 7 a.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.

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. Joseph Lions Club, 7 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion 101 Fifth Ave. NW., St Joseph. Joanne Bechtold, 320-363-4483.
St. Cloud Area Genealogists, 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 16
Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000
St. Cloud school board meeting, 6:30 p.m, St. Cloud City Council Chambers, 400 Second St. S.

Thursday, Oct. 17
Curbside Collection, 6 a.m. outside residence for

customers enrolled in the St. Joseph refuse program.
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph
St. Joseph Senior Citizens, 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE.

Friday, Oct. 18
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. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.
St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

Saturday, Oct. 19
Appliance and Electronic Collection, 8 a.m.-noon, behind the St. Joseph Community Center. Enter off Callaway Street and exit onto Baker Street. Limit two items, residents should be preped to show ID.
Burger and brat sale, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.
Buckthorn removal, 2-4 p.m., Rockville County Park, 11503 Glacier Road, St. Cloud. Meet in the main parking area by the restrooms.

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FACT helps feed hungry school students

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

It all started in 2018 when some students in the St. Cloud school district came home to tell their parents they'd seen some kids at school eating left-over food from the garbage.

That's when a few alarmed and concerned parents organized a volunteer program dubbed FACT – Feeding Area Children Together. It is a way to get food to children that they can eat on weekends and on nonschool days throughout the school year. It will continue this year too.

In fact, there are plans to extend the program to other area school districts, including Sartell. But that can only happen once the St. Cloud district is going strong; currently, there is a waiting list for the program's services. FACT is now serving more than 200 students who

attend schools in St. Cloud.

Zurya Anjum, a Sartell resident, is a member of the FACT board. She explained how the program works. On the last day of school each week, bags of food are discreetly placed in the backpacks of children eligible for FACT. Those children are identified through self-referrals or by teachers and/or social workers.

Each food bag, per weekend, contains two breakfasts, two lunches and two snacks. All the food items are single-serve, child-appealing and shelf-stable.

The need for the food supplements has grown "exponentially," said Anjum, who is urging people to lend a hand or donate to the program. Currently, there are three needs:

One: Monetary donations (\$5 can buy enough FACT food for a week for one child; \$180 can provide enough for the entire school year).



Two: Storage places are also needed for packing the food packs and for storing them until distribution. Currently, that process takes place in the basements of the houses of board members and in local churches.

Three: People to help current board-member volunteers to seek individuals, organizations and businesses willing to contribute in one way or another.

"We have a long wait list and even though we want to feed each child, we do not have the resources

to do so currently," Anjum said. "Our policy is to not start a pack for a child until we have the financial resources to do it for that child for a whole school year."

FACT also stocks pantries located within each school that is stocked by donations from the community and is available to all students.

FACT recipients also receive boxes of food for longer school breaks, such as holidays, and those boxes contain fresh donated produce, bread and pantry staples.

"If anyone can help us with this cause – with space that is desperately needed, with money or with their time, please contact us," Anjum said. "Let's take a stand that no child needs to go to bed hungry in our neighborhoods."

To find out more, to donate or to volunteer, go to www.stcloudFACT.org. Or send donations to FACT, P.O. Box 7832, St. Cloud, MN 56302.



Witches and warlocks welcome

SAT, OCT 12 | 10AM - 1PM
MEMBERS - FREE | GUESTS - \$5



Halloween Historia

A non-scary family event featuring:

- SCAVENGER HUNT
- PETTING ZOO
- SNACKS & CRAFTS
- HAYRIDES
- TRICK OR TREATING
- THE "CANDY WITCH"
- FACE PAINTING

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Oct 7th - 13th	week of \$1 taco bravos®
Nov 8th	\$.50 potato olés®
Nov 11th - 30th	super six pack and a pound®
Dec 3rd	\$.50 dessert day
Dec 9th - 15th	week of \$1 desserts



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50% OFF!

Monday, Oct. 14
Open 9 a.m.- 9:30 p.m.

Clothing, shoes, purses, bed & bath
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Family Fun Fest

Saturday, Oct. 19
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Spin the wheel for great savings, face painting,
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