

Newsleaders

Reaching Everybody!

Friday, July 12, 2019
Volume 31, Issue 13
Est. 1989

Town Crier

Raden golf tournament planned for July 25

The Scott M. Raden Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 25 at Blackberry Ridge, 3125 Clubhouse Road, Sartell. The tournament celebrates the legacy of Scott Raden. All proceeds go to Sartell golf teams and the ALS Association. www.scottmraden-memorialgolftournament.org.

Unity Spiritual Center to host pet blessing

The sixth annual Unity Spiritual Pet Blessing is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sunday, July 14, at 931 Fifth Ave. N., Sartell. All people and animals are welcome.

Mississippi restoration event set July 20

A restoration project to improve the Mississippi River will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 20 at Talahi Woods (near Riverside Park).

As part of Minnesota Public Radio's Water Month, MPR personalities, hosts and staff welcomes members, listeners and the community to volunteer working side-by-side to remove invasive species and plant native grasses. This free event is family friendly. All necessary supplies including water, gloves, shovels, T-shirts and a light breakfast, snacks and lunch will be provided. To register, visit greatrivergreening.org/events/volunteer-with-grg-mpr/

Senior Games volunteers needed

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

Country Manor seeks outing, excursion assistant

Volunteers assist staff at Country Manor in taking small groups of residents into the community for various activities. A volunteer's primary responsibility while on the outings is to pair up with a resident and help push their wheelchair. Examples of outings include going out to lunch, shopping, fishing, special holiday events and bowling. Contact Casaundra, Country Manor campus volunteer coordinator, at 320-253-1920 or cheinen@countrymanorcampus.org.



photo by Mike Knaak

Out for a spin on July Fourth

The Ringsmuth Riders entertain the crowd with their unicycle skills at St. Joseph's Fourth of July Parade. For more photos from the parade, see the photo gallery at the newsleaders.com. Here are the parade winners by categories: Wow Extreme!!: 1. Andy's Towing, 2. Roctoberfest; Cool Youth: 1. St. Joseph Catholic School, 2. Ringsmuth Riders Unicycle Team; Fourth of July Theme: 1. American Legion 100 years, 2. St. Joseph Knights of Columbus; Best Dressed Business: 1. Woods Farmers Seed & Nursery, 2. Marcus Parkwood Theatre; Classy Vehicles: 1. Rock on Trucks Veteran Tribute 2. Freedom Flight Inc.; Animals: 1. Plafcan Ponies 2. Shady Oaks Ranch Draft Hitch; Honorable Mention: St. Joseph Cub Scouts, Notsch's Belgians, St. Joseph Legion 100th Birthday.

Church celebrates with a Rededication Mass

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Parishioners from the Church of St. Joseph Catholic Church had a chance to see a newly restored and renovated church interior at a Rededication Mass on June 29.

Church pastor, the Rev. Jerome Tupa commented about the Mass.

"The Rededication Mass called together many of our parishioners, Sisters of St. Benedict's Monastery, Monks of St. John's Abbey and of course Bishop Kettler surrounded by five priests," Tupa said. "With a 30-voice parish choir, an 18-voice choir from the Benedictine monastery, organ, piano, guitars and flute there was glorious music surrounding the

various rituals for the Rededication Mass; sprinkling of the walls and original dedication lamps and consecration of the altar."

The remodel of the church was completed in time for the annual July Fourth parish festival.

Many parishioners participated in the restoration when they helped with demolition of the church interior after a request was made for people to help at the beginning of the year. This help from volunteers saved the parish both time and money.

During the demolition, church facility manager Andy Loso said there were about 25 volunteers helping each day and the average age of the

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photo by Cori Hilsgen

Parishioners filled the newly renovated pews of the church at the June 29 Rededication Mass.

Legion to celebrate 100th anniversary Aug. 10

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Members of the St. Joseph American Legion Post 328 have been having a busy year celebrating the 100 years since the post received its charter Nov. 5, 1919.

They, along with The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of American Legion, would like

other people to help them celebrate when they host a Community Day beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, at The American Legion in St. Joseph.

A 4 p.m. live auction at the event will feature a 67- by 84-inch "American Valor" quilt and a 40- by 50-inch "Proud to be an American" baby quilt created by the Church of St. Joseph quilting group, a chain-

saw-carved wooden eagle valued at \$2,200, by Mark Kurtz and a duck carving, by Lee Eisenschenk.

The event will also include live music by Jerry Biersbach and Joyce Maus, who will perform and coordinate additional music for listening and dancing until 6 p.m. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

American Legion member

Norm Hansen said they expect many community members will join them to show their support of veterans and the Legion on this day of celebration and fun.

Year-long celebration

The kickoff for the 100-year anniversary year-long celebration for The American Legion began at the Nov. 17, 2018, Vet-

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Mass

from front page

volunteers was around 75 years old. He said the volunteers did all the demolition work including removing the entire floor.

Volunteers helped take apart the sacristy and tabernacle wall, ripped out carpeting, removed the floor, removed kneelers, prepared food for the workers, cut and removed steam piping and much more.

The remodeling and renovation project, completed by Breitbach Construction Co. and others, included removing the floor and filling the crawlspace, replacing column foundations, installing in-floor heat and pouring a cement slab, installing granite tile, new lighting, adding a fire-safety sprinkler system, reconfiguring the altar, refurbishing church pews, repairing the ceiling and plaster, and painting a ramp to the sanctuary.

Memento crosses were made by the Bob Ethen family and the Knights of Columbus from the wood and square nails saved

from the original 1870 church floorboards. These were available for purchase after Mass. Each church family could purchase one cross for a suggested donation of \$20. A sign-up sheet will be available if families are interested in additional crosses at a later date. Proceeds will be donated to the Church of St. Joseph Faith Formation Program.

The restoration and remodeling project was completed in six months and cost around \$1.6 million which was raised through a capital campaign.

Parishioners also visited and shared a picnic meal, served by volunteers, in the Heritage Hall Parish Center after the Mass.

According to information provided in the Mass program by Marilyn Salzl Brinkman, the church is the oldest consecrated church in the state and was originally consecrated in 1871. It is built out of stones parishioners brought from farm fields and is home to the world's only operating Schwalbach Mechanical Clock, which was built by Mathias Schwalbach. A renovation of the interior of the church was done in the 1970s.

Frieler served in Vietnam

The American Legion is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2019. In addition to national and state-wide activities commemorating this milestone, American Post 328 of St. Joseph is planning a number of festive and patriotic activities for the community.

One of those special events will be profiles of St. Joseph-area veterans published in each Newsleader during 2019. 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

Gerald Joseph Frieler, 72, U.S. Army - Vietnam Era

Frieler was born at his aunt's home in Greenwald. He is the fourth child of 11 (seven brothers and three sisters). The family farmed 360 acres near Green-



contributed photo

Gerald Frieler in Vietnam.

wald.

Frieler attended a one-room country school for eight years. He spent two years at Sauk Centre High School. After prayerful discernment, Frieler said he felt he had been called to the priesthood. Having been inspired by the late Dr. Thomas Dooley and his missionary work in Southeast Asia, Frieler entered the minor Maryknoll Seminary in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Having been brought up in what Frieler describes as a "very strict Catholic family," he wanted to see if the priesthood was his true vocation. Later he transferred to another Maryknoll Seminary in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. He recalls so admiring the intellectual prowess of the priests that taught there.

In March of 1965, Frieler decided the priesthood was not his calling and he returned home. He was 18 years old.

Being one without a lot of mechanical aptitude, an asset on the farm, Frieler and his father often



Gerald Frieler

were embroiled in conflicts. Frieler describes his father as "unaffectionate and verbally abusive." After one particularly heated and hurtful argument Frieler drove to Minneapolis and enlisted in the army for three years (November 1965). He readily concedes he enlisted to get away from his father.

Frieler completed his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. From there he was assigned to Fort Gordon, Georgia, for five months. After completing field radio repair school, he was flown to Vietnam.

Arriving at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon in July 1966, Frieler was assigned to the Big Red 1 Infantry Division, Company B. From there he went to a processing center at Long Binh.

Frieler eventually ended up at an outpost simply known as Bear-Cat. He describes this outpost as "nothing more than a hole in the forest."

For six months he repaired radios. Radio communications between those soldiers in the bush on patrol, and rear echelon, and other support units was critical for combat operations.

On a few occasions Frieler went out on ambush patrols. On one particular dark night it appeared the enemy was attempting to penetrate the defensive perimeter. It certainly sounded that way. Within seconds the platoon opened up with all the fire power at their ready. In the morning, the intruder was identified as a "hamburgerized" water buffalo.

Frieler extended six months beyond the army's normal 12-month deployment in Vietnam. Because he extended his tour in Vietnam, he was allowed a 30-day leave back home. When he returned to Greenwald, Frieler was dismayed to find many in

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Legion

from front page

erans Day dinner during which Sixth District Commander Richard Cross was the guest speaker and spoke of the importance of The American Legion and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the St. Joseph Legion. St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schultz also presented the Legion with a proclamation declaring Nov. 11, 2018, as American Legion Centennial Day.

A Jan. 12, 2019, membership dinner honored four of 11 World War II veterans who are members of Post 328. Veterans in attendance included Larry Tillemans, Robert Wahlstrom, Don Schneider and Othmar Schmitz. Those who could not attend include Harold Gerlich, Richard Pike, Edward Reber, John Schlinder, Joe Zimmer, Lee Schroeder and Oswald Thelen.

The annual July Fourth parade was led by The American Legion Color Guard, commanded by Legionnaire Nick Studer. Several floats in the parade recognized veterans and included The American Legion's float displaying the military uniforms of past and present and military branch flags for the five military services, St. Joseph Historical Society's float displaying St. Joseph military memorabilia, prisoner of war hot-air balloon and Rock On Trucks float decorated in support of the military and a veterans theme.

A dinner Saturday, Aug. 24, at the Legion will honor Korean War veterans who are members of the Legion and an American Legion early bird dinner Sept. 19 will honor Vietnam Veterans who are members of the Legion. At the Thursday, Sept. 19, dinner, the Legion will also begin a silent auction, which will continue through its Saturday, Nov. 16, Veterans Day dinner, of several historic Legion-themed liquor bottles.

On Nov. 16, The American Legion will hold its closing



contributed photo

Four American Legion Post 328 of St. Joseph members who are World War II veterans (front, left to right) Don Schneider, Larry Tillemans, Robert Wahlstrom and (back) Othmar Schmitz were honored at a membership dinner Jan. 12.

event of its year-long celebration with a guest speaker from The American Legion, Department of Minnesota office. At this dinner, they will honor the veterans of recent wars and conflicts: the first Iraq War and the wars and conflicts since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

The American Legion

The American Legion, John Kuebelbeck Post 328, of St. Joseph currently has 241 members. It's a charter post that was organized the first year the national organization was recognized by Congress in 1919 and follows the Legion's commitment to service.

The St. Joseph post is named after John Kuebelbeck, the first St. Joseph soldier killed in action while serving in France during World War I. Kuebelbeck is buried in Romange, France.

Legion Auxiliary

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

Since 1922, its members have served the needs of veterans, military service members, their families and community both financially and by volunteering through the many programs members financially support.

Auxiliary past president Rosie Court said St. Joseph's

current 98 members actively support The American Legion's motto of "Service Not Self." Members volunteer at the St. Cloud VA Health Care System through various areas, social activities and programs and in the area. The unit's longest member is Mary Ann Krebsbach, for 61 years.

The mission statement of the auxiliary is "In the Spirit of Service Not Self," supporting The American Legion and honoring the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of veterans, military and their families both at home and abroad.

Court said they help with the May Poppy Campaign, distributing poppy cards to local businesses in exchange for donations that are used entirely for veterans programs at the St. Cloud VA. This year the organization received \$6,400 in donations. The poppy became the official flower of the American Legion in 1921 in memory of the soldiers who fought on the battlefields in France and Belgium and were buried in Flanders Field during World War I.

The St. Joseph Unit supports the Prisoner of War/Missing In Action programs (those still missing in action and unaccounted for), honor the Gold Star Mothers (deceased and one current member Jeannette Faughn, Legion • back page

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- Painting Pals Art Show
- Historical Society Museum Open House
- Friends of the Library Book Sale
- Dairy Princesses Serving Ice Cream
- Surrey Rides on the Trail
- Geocache Medallion Hunt
- 40 & 8 Train Rides
- HomePride Lions BINGO Tent
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- Friends of the Library Book Sale
- Turtle Races • 40 & 8 Train Rides
- Third Street Brewhouse Tours
- Surrey Rides on the Trail
- King of the Wings Contest
- (Teals Market) Cupcake Eating Contest
- CSAHS Bingo 2-5 p.m.
- Music by Cruise Control 5-8 p.m.

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People

Two St. Joseph students were recently named to the spring president's honor roll at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. They are **Nicole Bloch** and **Chase Meyers**. To qualify, a student must have an overall cumulative grade-point average of 3.80 or higher.

Four St. Joseph students recently graduated from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. The students and their degrees are: **Owen Berg-Arnold**, bachelor's degree in aeronautics; **Nicole Bloch**, bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary health studies, magna cum laude; **Brittany Kluver**, certificate, medical laboratory science; and **Kristi Bohlig**, master's degree in physician assistant studies.

Mandy Geertsema of St. Joseph recently graduated from the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth. She graduate summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Ethan Novacinski of St. Joseph was recently named to the spring dean's list at St. John's University. To be included on the dean's list, students earn a grade-point average of at least 3.80.

Thirteen St. Joseph students have been named to the spring dean's list at St. Cloud State University. To be eligible, students must have a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale. The students are: **McKayla Beard**, **Clara Brown**, **Crystal Giffen**, **Patrick Gill**, **Lindsay Helfenstein**, **Haley Huls**, **Brandon Johnson**, **Brett Kirchner**, **Jenna Klein**, **Kaylee Lodermeier**, **Karissa Muehring**, **Elizabeth Solarz** and **Sydney Wolf**.

Eleven St. Joseph students recently graduated from St. Cloud State University. The students and their degrees are: **Kyle Becker**, bachelor's degree; **Crystal Giffen**, summa cum laude, bachelor's degree; **Khalif Hassan**, cum laude, bachelor's degree; **Dominic Johnson**, bachelor's degree; **LeAnne Johnson**, master's in social work; **Layne Oehrlein**, bachelor's degree; **Haley Huls**, cum laude, bachelor's degree; **Bryce Kirchner**, magna cum laude, bachelor's degree; **Brian Kothrade**, graduate certificate; **William Morgan**, magna cum laude, bachelor's degree; and **Cheyenne Orcutt**, master's in social work.



photo by Cori Hilsgen

Getting ready to rock

As the July 3 Joetown Rocks Concert kicks off, a crowd begins to gather around some of the stands in front of the church and parish center.

Frieler

from page 2

town avoided him, "People I grew up with." This was as traumatic as Vietnam.

Later in his tour of duty Frieler did take R & R in Japan for a few days. He was in Vietnam during two particularly dangerous "Tet Offenses" (1967-1968).

Frieler was promoted to E-5 platoon sergeant, which provided him an opportunity to experience a leadership role.

After 18 months in Vietnam, Frieler got orders to report to a joint U.S. Army/Italian Army Base in Vicenza, Italy. The initial orders read "duration 5 months, minus immediate 45-day leave." Orders later changed to "30-day leave" only to again read: "report immediately to Vicenza."

Frieler much preferred the first set of orders. On the first leg of his trip to Italy, he arrived at JFK Airport, New York, only to be greeted by two MPs. For some unexplainable reason, a man entered the room dressed as a civilian. He listened attentively to the MP's accusatory remarks about Frieler being AWOL. Frieler never knew this man's position of responsibility or authority. That being said, Frieler is forever grateful for his decision. The man simply told the MPs, "Let him go. Leave him alone. Hell, he just spent 18 months in Vietnam." Off to Italy Frieler went. He spent the remainder of his army enlistment in Italy repairing radios.

Frieler was discharged from the Army in Italy (November 1969). While still in Italy, he enrolled at St. Cloud State University and promptly started classes in January of 1969.

Frieler recalls, "Lots of protests on campus" (against the war). He "hung out with other vets." While in school: he rented a little apartment in Waite Park, bought a car and motorcycle with his savings and \$130-a-month GI Bill allowance. Now on life's fast track Frieler graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting and got married a week later.

While at SCSU, Frieler had met Jane, his future wife, at a party. After two years courtship, they

married in 1972.

For three years, Frieler was employed as an auditor for the Minnesota Department of Revenue in St. Paul. At the age of 31, "married, with a 2-year-old daughter . . . and a son on the way" the family moved back to St. Joseph. Prior to the birth of a son, now 41, Jane and Jerry adopted a daughter from Korea, who's now 44.

With some apprehension tempering confidence, he started his own business in 1977. As a licensed public accountant, Frieler operated his own business for 24 years before he sold it in 2001.

The couple has been married for 48 years and has two grandchildren. Jane worked as a nurse at St. Cloud Hospital. Jane, a former Franciscan sister, "dove tailed" with Frieler's seminary days, thus contributing to their nicknames: the "bishop and the nun."

Now retired, Jerry and Jane live in Florida over the winter months. They both enjoy good health.

Over time, issues that fostered some bitterness have substantially dissipated giving way to a level of serenity that for so long was elusive.

Between hobbies, exercise and volunteerism, life is full and meaningful for Jerry Frieler (aka "the bishop").

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Quilts, wood carvings to be auctioned at American Legion 100th anniversary

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Even though this year's July Fourth festival has already taken place, the Church of St. Joseph quilters continued with their stitching to benefit another area event.

The quilting group which includes chairperson Delrose Fischer, Marilyn Brinkman, Cathy Buchheit, Sharon Froehle, Ione Jacobs, Linda Loso, Judy Meemkin, Jeny Meyer, Josie Meyer, Betty Schloemer, Ilene Schmitt, Geri Schwab and Lynn Valek has been busy creating two patriotic quilts which will

be auctioned at a Community Day beginning at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, at the American Legion Post 328 in St. Joseph. The auction will take place at 4 p.m.

The event will celebrate 100 years since the American Legion, John Kuebelbeck Post 328, of St. Joseph received its charter Nov. 5, 1919.

The "American Valor" quilt measures 67-by-84 inches and the "Proud to be an American" baby quilt measures 40-by-50 inches. The American Valor quilt was pieced by newly recruited quilter Linda Loso.

"The soldiers (who) served

our country gave us freedom and I am always thinking of passing a quilt off to the Veterans Administration patients," she said. "It started as a laptop quilt but got bigger. Personally, I am honored Delrose has asked me to donate it to the celebration."

"It is so fitting," Froehle said. "It's a privilege to do this for the veterans."

A chainsaw-carved wooden eagle valued at \$2,200, by Mark Kurtz, and a duck carving, by Lee Eisenschenk, will also be auctioned at the event which is open to the public and will include music, food and drinks.



photo by Cori Hilsgen

This "Proud to Be American" baby quilt will be auctioned at a Community Day 100-year anniversary celebration.



photo by Cori Hilsgen

Little rockers

Joetown Rocks concert chair (back right) Rich Schwegel announces the St. Joseph Catholic School singers at the start of the July 3 concert.




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Opinion

Our View

Whose voices should shape the image of Central Minnesota?

A front-page story in the June 21 New York Times reported on St. Cloud's anti-Muslim, anti-immigration advocates.

It's not the first time Central Minnesota's racist and xenophobic attitudes have received statewide and even national attention.

In the print edition, the headline read "Resettled refugees unsettle a mostly white city."

The online story carried a more detailed headline: "These People Aren't Coming From Norway: Refugees in a Minnesota City Face a Backlash. As more Somali refugees arrive in St. Cloud, white anti-immigration activists have pressed an increasingly explicit anti-Muslim agenda."

Predictably, locals responded the Concerned Community Citizens crew quoted in the story does not speak for the entire area or a majority of residents. An editorial in the St. Cloud Times called on people with a different viewpoint to step up and speak up.

These stories will continue to appear and the notion St. Cloud is a place that does not welcome diversity and change will keep coming as long as a noisy few appear to speak for all. If the anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant viewpoint is truly held by a minority, only words and more importantly actions, prove it.

Meanwhile, St. Cloud will continue to be known across the country as White Cloud. That image does not stop at the St. Cloud city limits. Sartell, St. Joseph, Sauk Rapids and Waite Park residents need to speak and act their true beliefs.

In St. Joseph, the Cultural Bridges group sponsors programs to help immigrants become part of the community. English classes, citizenship education, community meals and job counseling reach out to the city's newest residents. Cultural Bridges has taken action as well as offered words.

In addition to the legal and moral issues raised by xenophobia and racism, there's also a component of economic self interest. When companies research where to locate, when families decide where to accept a new job or parents decide where to send sons and daughters to college, do we want the New York Times' reporting, and other stories like it, to be at the top of a Google search.

As the New York Times reports, "In this predominantly white region of Central Minnesota, the influx of Somalis, most of whom are Muslim, has spurred the sort of demographic and cultural shifts President Trump and right-wing conservatives have stoked fears about for years. The resettlement has divided many politically active residents of St. Cloud, with some saying they welcome the migrants.

"But for others, the changes have fueled talk about 'white replacement,' a racist conspiracy theory tied to the declining birthrates of white Americans that has spread in far-right circles and online chat rooms and is now surfacing in some communities."

According to the New York Times' story, Concerned Community Citizens, known as C-Cubed, was formed in 2017 to support more nativist candidates on the City Council.

There's mixed evidence whether C-Cubed represents the majority viewpoint. Last year, the group supported four candidates and won two seats on the City Council. Modeled on Donald Trump's Make America Great Again hats, red Make St. Cloud Great Again Hats appeared on the heads of C-Cubed supporters.

Results of the "Social Capital Survey of Central Minnesota," commissioned by the Central Minnesota Community Foundation, presents more scientific evidence. The 73 percent of respondents who say they trust people from Somalia was 17 percent higher in 2015 than it was in 2010. Granted, this data is four years old and was collected before Donald Trump unleashed his daily lies about immigration, but it does represent positive change?

The Times story ended with this anecdote:

"One woman, who declined to give her name after the group discussion, bemoaned the city's so-called no-go zones, or the areas where white residents said they felt so uncomfortable with the Somali-American presence that they would not return — a shopping mall, a community housing center and Beaver Island Trail, a hiking area that borders the Mississippi River.

"They were just —" she said, searching for the words to describe the offending behavior of the Somali-Americans. "They were just walking around."

Is this the Central Minnesota we want, where walking while being black is unacceptable?

Are we ready for today's big idea?

Lots of big events happened at our house on the south side of St. Cloud in the summer of 1969.

We bought our first color TV, my first year of high school loomed and I learned to drive (behind the wheel of a huge 1968 Chevrolet that barely fit on the old 10th Street Bridge).

And oh yes, American astronauts landed on the moon.

On July 20, a humid Sunday night 50 years ago, Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong climbed down a ladder to the lunar surface while the world watched the fuzzy black-and-white television images.

This summer we remember key anniversaries of two of the most significant events of the 20th century.

In June, Americans and our World War II allies honored the D-Day veterans who invaded France 75 years ago.

On D-Day, the survival of the western democracies was at stake. Sending astronauts to the moon was a more symbolic challenge to prove America's technical and entrepreneurial superiority over the Soviet Union. But both demanded vision, inspirational leadership and involved tremendous risk.

Just weeks after NASA launched Alan Shepard on America's first manned flight, President Kennedy proposed that the U.S. land on the moon by the end of the 1960s. An audacious idea challenged the country's scientists and technical companies. The big idea inspired Americans to reach for a history-changing achievement.

The only problem, we didn't know

Mike Knaak
Editor



how to do it. None of the machines to get to the moon had been built or tested.

Failure to achieve the goal would have embarrassed the country, especially if the Soviets reached the moon first. We've heard the quote from NASA's leaders many times: "Failure was not on option."

When Franklin Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower and Winston Churchill planned D-Day, failure was definitely a possibility and with catastrophic consequences. In his message to the troops, Eisenhower wrote: "We will accept nothing less than full victory!"

These two very different historic events share common characteristics: bold vision, teamwork at all levels and big risks.

With great sacrifice and bravery, D-Day succeeded. With trusted leadership, the efforts of hundreds of thousands of Americans and technical excellence, Armstrong and Aldrin walked on the moon.

Could Americans meet those historic challenges today? Given a life-or-death mission or a visionary goal, what would be the result?

Who would be today's Eisenhower, Roosevelt or Kennedy?

Be proud and aware this Fourth of July season

Connor Kockler
Guest Writer



place where they could breathe free, and when that freedom was questioned, they fought to keep it. When the king tried to raise taxes on the colonists without their consent, they resisted in a number of creative ways, most notably with throwing a bunch of British tea into Boston Harbor. "No taxation without representation" became a rallying cry that eventually led to these determined patriots to take up arms to defend themselves against tyranny and oppression.

Their beliefs were manifested in the document of the Declaration of Independence, the anniversary of which we celebrate every July 4. The Declaration said "all men are created equal" and that governments should derive their powers from the "consent of the governed" not from a birthright or crown. A new concept of a nation was born, one that was responsible to and served its citizens, rather than ruling mercilessly over them.

Taking these ideals as inspiration, the United States overcame many challenges: eradicating the scourge of slavery, establishing a strong and prosperous economy, and defeating tyranny in the world wars that would have brought the globe back into an age of dictators and darkness.

In a September 1962 speech, Kennedy said: "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too."

What leader would dare to speak similar words today?

Kennedy and Eisenhower envisioned success, but success was not guaranteed. Eisenhower wrote a message in case the invasion failed and he was ready to take the blame.

"Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that Bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone."

In this time and place, it's time for visionary leadership to turn back climate change. The consequences of failure or inaction are just as great as on D-Day. The technology needed to stop global warming is just as experimental as the path to the moon was in 1961.

In 50 or 75 years, Americans should look back on the summer of 2019 as a time when American leadership set a visionary and essential goal and challenged the country to meet it.

Our country hasn't been perfect, and there have been episodes in our history that we need to learn from. But just because we have made mistakes shouldn't be an excuse for critics to write this nation or our history off. Incredible sacrifices were made by many people throughout time that many of us couldn't possibly fathom making now, and that wouldn't have been made if they were only interested in their own self-benefit.

So this Fourth of July season, we should remember how we got here, but also where we want to go as a nation. We can always continue to work toward being good citizens and living up to the ideals our country embodies. We should stay aware of what's going on in our neighborhoods and country at large. We should be proud of being American, but also aware of how things can still be improved.

The price for the freedoms and prosperity we enjoy every day in the United States is being vigilant in protecting them. Its standing up for what's right when you see or hear things that go against our beliefs of freedom and liberty. So remember while enjoying a beautiful Minnesota summer, our nation is strong and great only as long as we are willing to do our part to keep it that way.

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

GOT AN OPINION?

Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only).

The Newsleaders
1622 11th Ave S.
St. Cloud, MN 56304

Email: news@thenewsleaders.com

Community Calendar

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

Friday, July 12

Brat, hot dog and hamburger sale, 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, July 13

Brat, hot dog and hamburger sale, 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, July 14

Tour of Saints bicycle ride, check in 6:30-8:30 a.m.,

Haehn Campus Center, College of St. Benedict. Same-day registration available; 18-, 35 and 50-mile route options. www.tourosaints.com.

Pet Blessing Celebration, 10 a.m., Unity Spiritual Center of Central Minnesota, 931 Fifth Ave. N, Sartell. 320-255-9253 or www.UnitySpiritualCenter.org.

Monday, July 15

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.

St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., council chambers, St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

Women of Today backpack collection, 6:30 p.m., Woodcrest of Country Manor, 1200 Lanigan Way SW, St. Joseph. Bring a backpack. 320-224-5722.

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

Tuesday, July 16

Mobile office hours, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell City Hall.

A caseworker from Rep. Tom Emmer's office will be available to handle issues with federal government services.

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

St. Cloud Area Genealogists, 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org.

St. Joseph Lions Club, 7:30 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion 101 Fifth Ave. NW, St. Joseph. Contact Joanne Bechtold 320-363-4483 for more information.

Wednesday, July 17

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., City Council chambers, 400 Second St. S.

Thursday, July 18

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

Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.

Friday, July 19

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 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

Saturday, July 20

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

Being, Belonging, Becoming in Our Benedictine Community, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Benedict's Monastery. Single, Catholic women under the age of 45 are invited to learn about monastery life. To register, contact Sister Lisa Rose at lrose@csbsju.edu or 320-363-7180.

Monday, July 22

St. Cloud school district Community Linkages Committee, 8 a.m., District

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

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

Fare for All, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2 N.

Tuesday, July 23

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.

Thursday, July 25

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

Friday, July 26

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

Sunday, July 28

Joe Town Table, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph. centralmncw@gmail.com.

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News for Refugees

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.

Meet Omar Hassan. Members of the Cultural Bridges committee interviewed Omar Hassan, a refugee from Somalia who lives in a Morningside Townhome in St. Joseph with his wife and four children ranging in age from 18 months to 9 years.

Omar and his family moved to the United States in 2011 to escape unsafe conditions there. They moved to St. Joseph in May 2015 because of available housing and proximity to his job at Golden Plump. Omar now works at Coleman Co. in Sauk Rapids and is going to school to learn English.

Before coming to our city, he was fearful, wondering if the people would be friendly and helpful. With a warm smile and chuckle, he reports that this is a "good place."

He has found people are both friendly and helpful. Adding to the warm atmosphere, he speaks enthusiastically about the teachers and administrators at Kennedy Community School. He



contributed photo
Omar Hassan.

attends parent conferences when he can and often visits the classrooms and lunchroom at Kennedy Community School.

Omar is committed to the hard work of raising his family, supporting them financially and learning English. He wants to learn English so he can help his children with their homework.

When asked what he wanted the people of St. Joseph to know, he said, "Everything good." He is grateful for the quiet, safe neighborhood, his job at Coleman and the friendly, helpful people of St. Joseph.

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

Legion

from page 3

St. Joseph), who have lost a son or daughter in the active service of their country, the Eagles Healing Nest in Sauk Centre and Becky's Troop Care Packages in St. Cloud.

Court said she commented to the Legion members at their annual meeting that "although things have changed (during) 100 years, our unit's Auxiliary will never quit as we advocate and support for our veterans, military service members and their families into the next century."

Sons of American Legion

There are 46 Sons of American Legion members in St. Joseph's American Legion Family. Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion honors the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. It's made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion.

The organization supports The American Legion in promoting programs such as veterans programs, Veterans Administration volunteerism, youth projects and fundraising. The Sons of the American Legion is one of many organizations that sponsors and supports the Citizens Flag Alliance, teaching the importance of respect for the flag.

Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion Family.

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