## St. Joseph

Reaching Everybody! Postal P

Friday, Aug. 9, 2019 Volume 31, Issue 15 Est. 1989

## **Town Crier**

### Shoe Bus joins Fare for All

The Shoe Bus will be part of the Monday, Aug. 19, Fare for All program. The event runs from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2. Fare For All has teamed with Good in the Hood to support their Shoe Away Hunger campaign. Gently used shoes will be available for purchase. Adult shoes cost \$5 and children's shoes go for \$2. Everyone is welcome. All proceeds go directly to the purchase of food for food shelves. Shoe donations are also welcome.

### Sartell Farmers' Market Mondavs at Bernick's arena

Sartell Farmers' Market is open from 3-6 p.m. Mondays at Bernick's arena, 1109 First St. S., Sartell. If you haven't checked us out yet, come and find great produce including tomatoes and sweet corn. Many different baked goods, canned goods, salsa, caramel corn, honey and much more. If you have not met our newest vendor selling coffee, come and check out all we have to offer.

## Friday flicks to start tonight at Whitney

Friday Night Flicks, sponsored by City of St. Cloud Park and Recreation, will show the following movies at dusk in Whitney Memorial Park Field C-3: "Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse," teen night, on Aug. 9; "The Goonies," throwback night, Aug. 16; and "Incredibles 2," family night, Aug. 23. Rain site will be Whitney Rec Center. All three free events will have concessions available for purchase.

### Applications open for citizens police academy

Police departments of St. Joseph, Sartell, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids and Waite Park are accepting applications for the 2019 Class of the Metro Citizens Police Academy. The academy is an eight-week course offered to citizens and members of local civic and governmental organizations. Classes are from 6-10 p.m. Thursdays beginning Sept. 5. St. Joseph residents should contact the St. Joseph Police Department for details.



photos by Caroly

### Good food, good vibes at National Night Out

(Left photo) Lucia Ramirez and daughter Madeline, 11, grab a table and share a smile Aug. 6 as they wait for others to join them for a dinner of sub sandwiches, chips and lemonade at the St. Joseph Mobile Home Community National Night Out. (Right photo) The Lewis-Summers brothers enjoy a game of tag Aug 6 during National Night Out at the St. Joseph Mobile Home Community. They are (left to right) Dakota, 2; Michael, 9; and Bryton, 7.

## Ambuehl 'super excited' about new job

**by Dennis Dalman** news@thenewsleaders.com

Kris Ambuehl, the newly hired city administrator for St. Joseph, said he is "super excited" to start his new job for a number of reasons.

Ambuehl, 42, will begin his first day Monday, Aug. 12.

In an interview, he said he is happy that his job in St. Joseph will be closer to his home near Bowlus - about 20 miles. Before he was hired by St. Joseph last month, Ambuehl had served for little more than a year as city administrator for Tracy, a town of about 2,200 residents in Lyon County in Southwest Minnesota. He rented an apartment there where he stayed much of the time. The commute to his family near Bowlus was three hours, both ways.

"It will be good to have din-



contributed photo

Kris Ambuehl, the newly hired St. Joseph city administrator, will begin his first day of work Monday, Aug. 12. Ambuehl, who lives near Bowlus, was previously the city administrator for Tracy in southwest Minnesota.

ners with my wife and three daughters most every day," he said.

He is also happy because it's the job he'd long wanted. During the interview process, he was very impressed with the city's staff, including former city administrator, Judy Weyrens, who worked for St. Joseph administration for 33 years, the last 18 of them as administrator.

The St. Joseph City Council members, he said, conduct themselves very professionally; the city staff is a cohesive, solid team; St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schultz has true understanding and vision. Ambuehl told the mayor he might have to spend some transition time in Tracy.

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"He (mayor Schultz) told me it is important cities work together, and that is exactly what I believe, too."

Ambuehl said he feels a bit challenged as he is about to begin a job so long held by administrator Weyrens.

"She has been a pillar of the community," he said. "I'll have to work very hard to fill her role."

Ambuehl is certainly no stranger to St. Joseph. He grew up in Little Falls and has been long familiar with the cities of **Ambuehl • page 2** 

INSERTS: Trobec's Bus Service Woodcrest of Country Manor

## 300 bicyclists heading to St. Joseph

### by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleaders.com

This year's Bicycling Around Minnesota Tour starts and ends in St. Joseph with 300 riders arriving on Wednesday, Aug. 14, before hitting the trail the next morning on the four-day ride. They will return on Sunday, Aug. 18.

The riders and support personnel will set up camp behind the Government Center. The BAM 2019 loop includes Sauk Centre, Spicer and Hutchinson. Each day cyclists will ride between 60 to 70 miles on paved roads and trails.

BAM began in 2006 and the ride is aimed at moderate to experienced cyclists.

"Each year we move to a different part of the state," said Mary Derks, tour director. "We look at the communities and see if they have the time and resources to support the tour. We need camping, hotels and great roads. It all came together for us in St. Joseph."

BAM promotes Share the Road, bicycle safety, fitness, state tourism and the Scenic Bikeways System in Minnesota and bicycling as a transportation mode.

After leaving St. Joseph, riders will follow the Lake Wobegon Trail and low-traffic roads. They will visit the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library at St. John's on their way to Sauk Centre. On the next leg from Sauk Centre to Spicer, cyclists will stop at the Max Bat baseball factory in Brooten and Sibley State Park.

On Saturday, the tour heads to Hutchinson and then the riders return to St. Joseph on Sunday.

"Part of our mission is to promote tourism and showcase what Minnesota has to offer," Derks said. Riders come from about 20 states.

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> > If you would like to be a part of this amazing week next year, please contact us at: stjoecommunityvbs@gmail.com, or via Facebook at St. Joseph, MN Community VBS.

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## Ambuehl

### from front page

Central Minnesota, including St. Joseph. One of his long-time dreams, in fact, was to work in administration for St. Joseph. The size of the city and its demographics were ideal for the kind of work he wanted. Being located at the edge of the St. Cloud metro area was another plus. Ambuehl said he is gratified, excited and eager to go to work for St. Joseph now that a dream of his has come true.

Ambuehl's first job as a city administrator was the one in Tracy. He vividly recalls seven days after he was hired on June

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25, 2018, one early morning in the wee dark hours the police chief came rapping frantically on the door of his apartment. The chief could tell Ambuehl did not yet know the news. An overnight deluge of rain (9 inches in a few hours) had flooded the town, stranding many.

Scrambling to get dressed and ready, he dashed out to the chief's van, and they drove off to help rescue stranded residents. Ambuehl's training in disaster management came in handy that day, even his expertise on how to get old pumps up and started. Town residents were impressed by their new administrator's hands-on work in a crisis, and they told him how much they appreciated his know-how and hard work.

Ambuehl said the most vital requirement of good city government can be summed up in one word: communication. All involved, such as council members, must sit down, talk and really listen to one another before trying to solve problems or make decisions. Many problems and personal abrasions can be prevented if open and honest, from-the-heart communication takes place first, Ambuehl noted.

As such, Ambuehl said city administrators should work hard to foster those kinds of good communications.

"I follow three things," he said. "First I follow what's legal, then I follow what's ethical and finally I use compassion for those involved."

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### Background

Raised in Little Falls in a house very near to Charles Lindbergh State Park, Ambuehl graduated from Little Falls High School, then earned a degree from Willmar Technical College.

He started his own automotive body shop business based in Little Falls and did that kind of work for 11 years. In 2008, he sold parts of the business and closed other portions of it. Then he worked as a mechanic, painter and leadership and maintenance teacher at Camp Riplev near his home town. As a member of the Minnesota National Guard, he was deployed to Iraq in 2011-12 where he was in charge of transportation convoys.

While working at Camp Ripley, Ambuehl found the time to earn degrees in public administration and disaster management from Upper Iowa University - Fayette, Iowa. He is currently one-third of the way through earning a master's degree in business management, also from Upper Iowa University

Ambuehl and his wife, who works as an in-home nurse, have three young daughters. Ambuehl's hobbies are hunting, fishing and anything to do with the outdoors, especially happy camping trips with his family.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity for this job in St. Joseph," he said. "This job is everything I could hope for. It's the right location, and there is a solid (city) team already in place."



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#### Published each Friday by Von Meyer Publishing Inc. **Admin Assistant Editor** Publisher/Owner Marlene McMullen Janelle Von Pinnon Mike Knaak **Assignment Editor Deliverv** Designer Carolyn Bertsch Nina Henne John Herring

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## **Refugee news: Community** garden, multicultural potluck

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 Sisters of St. Benedict enlarged their community garden space this year. This allowed 12 of our local Somali families to become gardeners for the first time. Most have moved from cities and have never had the chance to garden.

Since many of them don't speak much English, we had to figure out how to communicate with them about how to plant the gardens. We handed out a piece of paper that listed how far apart and how deep to plant each seed. We had just the right amount of volunteers on our planting day to help with the planting.

We have had some meetings after the gardens were planted that discussed how to take care of the gardens. They learned how often to water, what plants are weeds and how to know

Ogeysiis! Importante para when to harvest the produce. At our gathering last week, one of the gardeners said how much fun having a garden is.

> One of our gardeners lives very close to the garden. He was a farmer in Somalia, so he already knew how to garden. He and his nephew come over often to weed and spray for potato bugs. Their garden is one of the best cared for and productive of all of the gardens.

> The gardeners are very diligent about watering and weeding. All of them are very happy with the abundance of the output of the gardens. We all have learned much this first year of gardening. Next year we will have improved skills to be even better gardeners.

> The Sisters of St. Benedict have been very welcoming to the Somali people who have moved to St. Joseph. They are very thankful for the opportunity to be able to rent community garden plots, to be able to grow their own food, to lean about new plants and to meet the other gardeners from St. Joseph.

Cultural Bridges is hosting a multicultural potluck Sunday, Aug. 25, at Resurrection Luther-



The community garden.

contributed photo

an Church in St. Joseph. At 10 a.m. the documentary "Warehoused, the Forgotten Refugees of Dadaab" will be shown. A former Dadaab resident will be available to answer questions. The potluck will begin at 11:30 a.m. Children are welcome and activities will be provided for them after they have eaten. Contact Angela Haynes with questions. 320-845-7789.

### ....

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



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## Schultz honored for statewide serivce

St. Joseph Mayor Rick Schultz was recognized by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities July 25 during the coalition's three-day summer conference in Bemidji for his excellence in service to Greater Minnesota.

The Excellence in Service Award is given annually to city leaders who demonstrate knowledge, leadership and active participation in the coalition's program areas during the past year.

Schultz previously served on the coalition's Board of Directors for several years and continues to stay involved in the organization by advocating in support of key priorities such as Local Government Aid, infrastructure funding and economic development. In addition, he has provided testimony for legislative hearings on the group's priorities and helped with recruitment

efforts. Earlier this year, he also assisted in promoting the coalition's legislative goals by joining staff on media visits.

"It's clear Schultz that Rick cares

deeply about making sure his city and other cities in Greater Minnesota have opportunities to grow and thrive," said Ron Johnson, coalition president, in a press release. Johnson is also a member of the Bemidji City

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Council. "His efforts have not only advanced rural issues at the Legislature, but have also helped make the CGMC a stronger organization."

Shultz was first elected St. Joseph mayor in 2010. He was re-elected without opposition to another two-year term in 2018.

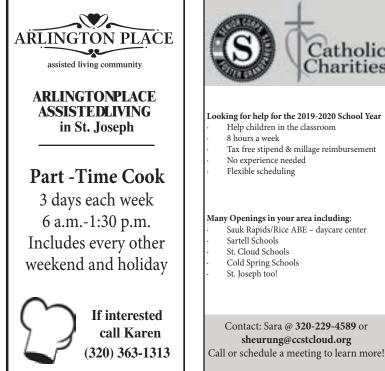
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing 97 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.

## **On-Call Shipping Assistant**

Liturgical Press, located on the Saint John's campus, has openings for (casual/on-call employment) in the shipping department. Job duties include picking and packaging product for shipping. Basic computer skills, ability to lift up to 30 pounds and the ability to stand for extended periods of time are required. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. This is an on-call position based on warehouse workload. Training will be provided.

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## Wanted: School Bus Drivers

Sartell-St. Stephen ISD 748 is currently hiring a school bus driver. The Bus Driver is responsible to transport students to and from school safely and efficiently, which may include daily routes, field trips, extra-curricular trips and school-sponsored events.

## Kremer served on a destroyer

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

One of those special events will be profiles of St. Joseph-area veterans published in each Newsleader during 2019. The Newsleader is joining with Post 328 to recognize veterans and Legion members who served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and other theaters of conflict and Cold War tensions.

by Tom Klecker

### Thomas Alois Kremer, 68 U.S. Navy – Vietnam Era

Kremer was born at St. Cloud Hospital. He was the first born of seven siblings with four brothers and two sisters.

Not a stranger to hard work, Kremer was raised on a 260acre farm along the Sauk River in now what likely would be called the Westwood Elementary School area of St. Cloud.

The family milked 30-35 cows, kept six hogs and most usually raised 300 chickens from which the Kremers sold eggs. At age 7, Kremer was allowed to drive the tractor home from the field. He had responsibilities to the cattle in addition to other chores.

Even though there was a



Kremer in the Tom Kremer Navy

two-room school house one to two blocks away, his parents enrolled him in St. Peter's Elementary School and later Cathedral High School. Either the bus or his dad got him to school each day.

In his first grade, he had 50 other classmates. Kremer did very well academically and graduated from Cathedral High School in 1969. That was 50 years ago.

With a "normal childhood growing up on the farm," academically well prepared and a solid Catholic foundation, Kremer enrolled at St. Cloud State University. After two years, Kremer secured an associate's degree. His goal at the time was to transfer to the University of Minnesota and attend agriculture school.

Short on educational funds that would allow him to continue in school and knowing that it was just a matter of time until he would be drafted, Kremer enlisted in June, 1970, in a Navy program. This program would include two years active duty and four years in the reserves.

In September, he completed two weeks of training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center followed by two weeks on a ship docked in the Philadelphia Naval Receiving Station.

Kremer returned to St. Cloud and resumed classes at SCSU. He played "catch-up" in his fall quarter of study and managed to complete winter and spring quarter. He worked at Hoerner-Waldorf Corp. during the summers of 1969, 1970 and 1971.

Kremer went on active duty with the Navy on Sept. 13, 1971. After reporting to Treasure Island, California, he was assigned to the USS Hoel DDG-13, a guided missile destroyer (surface to air missiles). This particular ship's complement was about 320 personnel. He stayed on that ship for the entire two years of his active duty.

In August 1972, Kremer became a third-class petty officer boatswain's mate. People not familiar with the duties and responsibilities of a boatswain's mate will find that particular job is often described as the backbone of any ship's crew. A boatswain's mate essentially trains, directs and supervises personnel in the ship's maintenance duties.

On Dec. 20, 1972, Kremer was involved in gun fire support operations off the coast of North Vietnam. On that particular night-time operation, one of the ship's 5-inch shells exploded in the barrel. The barrel split in several directions. Had



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Tom Kremer stands in front of a gun after a 5-inch shell exploded in the barrel.

the shell exploded closer to the breach (rear portion of a gun's barrel), Kremer and the gun crew would likely have been killed.

While stationed off the coast of Vietnam, it was at times necessary for the ship to put in for supplies and repair. Subsequently, Kremer had some shore liberty in Sasebo, Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

After completing his tour of active duty, Kremer was discharged on Sept. 13, 1973. He continued his career in the Naval Reserves.

After 31 years, he retired as a master chief petty officer (the highest rank for a noncommissioned enlisted sailor). Kremer says he "retired the same day Bill Clinton retired from the presidency."

After his two years of active duty in the Navy, Kremer returned to Hoerner-Waldorf Paper Corp. (now called West Rock). While employed there, he assumed positions of leadership and responsibility, functioning as a foreman and later as a shipping manager (1996). He retired in 2013, after 40 vears of service.

Kremer met his future wife, Diann Decker, at a dance at through life . . ."

SCSU in 1970. Their relationship continued while he was on active duty. Kremer says Diann's birthday falls on the Ides of March (15th). "Ides" in Latin means to "divide." In spite of superstitions, he and Diann married in February 1973. They have been happily married for 46 years. "And the rest is history."

Diann and Tom had six children - two adult sons and daughters; two others died. They are blessed with seven grandchildren.

Tom and Diann operate a quilting business in their home.

After living in St. Joseph for 22 years, the Kremers moved to St. Cloud in 1996. His current home in St. Cloud is on the very farm land on which he was raised. Kremer is active in his Catholic parish of St. Michael's.

Kremer has been a member of American Legion Post 328 of St. Joseph since 1973. He is active in a variety of volunteer activities. He also enjoys woodworking and travel.

Feeling rather content with his retirement and life in general, Kremer pensively says, ". . . one establishes a path

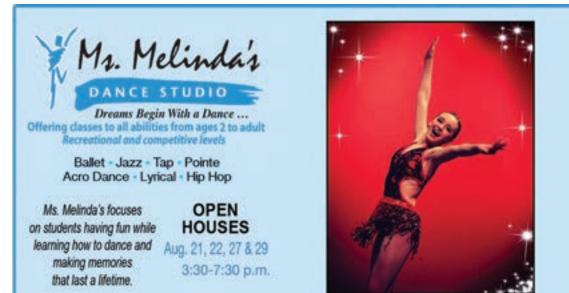




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**Opinion**-

### Friday, Aug. 9, 2019

## **Our View First Amendment**

## knowledge grows

### Here's some good news.

The First Amendment Center of the Freedom Forum Institute announced the results of its annual State of the First Amendment survey, which discovered the public has generally become more knowledgeable about rights under the First Amendment during the past year.

You can read the entire report here: https:// www.freedomforuminstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/SOFAreport2019.pdf

Seventy-one percent of respondents were able to correctly name at least one First Amendment right, nearly a 20 percent increase compared with the 2018 survey. The survey has been published since 1997 and reveals Americans' changing attitudes toward the essential five freedoms of the First Amendment — religion, speech, press, assembly and petition.

Most Americans are aware of religion, speech and press. But are less familiar with assembly and petition - two freedoms that guarantee their individual rights as citizens.

Perhaps Donald Trump's fake news campaign focused more attention on one of the First Amendment's freedoms...a free press.

Despite broader public awareness, many misconceptions surrounding the First Amendment remain. Sixteen percent of those surveyed said the right to bear arms was guaranteed by the First Amendment, up from 9 percent in 2018. (The Second Amendment addresses the right to bear arms.). Too-thirds (65 percent) agreed social media companies violate First Amendment rights when they ban users based on objectionable content they post.

The First Amendment guarantees your right to speak, not your right to a platform. Twitter Facebook and Instagram are businesses. The First Amendment does not require them to accept your posts. They don't need a reason to block you, although it's probably good business to adopt terms of service that appear to be fair.

To be clear, the First Amendment prohibits government censorship of speech but the government isn't Twitter. Social media platforms are not obligated to be "fair." Without evidence, Donald Trump has accused them of blocking conservative posts and favoring liberal posts. From a business standpoint, it's in the companies' best interest to serve up credible content to the full spectrum of readers, but they are not legally bound to do so.

Another concern is more people agreed the First Amendment went too far, rising to 29 percent from 23 percent in 2018. We need more work to explain how the freedoms of the First Amendment apply to daily life and how they define what it means to be an American.

More good news: most respondents (77 percent) agreed misinformation on the internet and the spread of actual fake news (not Trump's description of fake news as any story he doesn't like) is a serious threat to democracy, and most agreed it is important for our democracy that the news media act as a watchdog on government (72 percent).

This improved trust in journalism encourages

### Hands-free laws should apply to sports fans too Baseball fans streamed into the stadium, eager to watch the first home game of the Mike

season on a 72-degree afternoon. Many of them clutched their personal electronic devices, about the size of a deck of cards, the better to enjoy the game.

This spring day wasn't in 2019, but 61 years ago, in 1958. And the venue wasn't Target Field but the Los Angeles Coliseum where more than 78,000 fans jammed the stands to watch the newly relocated Brooklyn - now the Los Angeles - Dodgers.

There was only one problem. In their haste to escape Brooklyn's Ebbets Field, the Dodgers arrived on the West Coast without a proper ball field.

So starting in 1958, the Dodgers played in the Los Angeles Coliseum until Dodger Stadium was ready four years later.

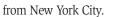
But the Coliseum, built for the Olympics and football, was Ill-suited for baseball because of the fundamentally different sizes and shapes of football and baseball fields.

It was a ballpark that wasn't a ballpark.

The left-field line was only 252 feet away from home plate. Right-center stretched to a cavernous 440 feet. Some fans were as far as 710 feet from home plate.

The players were not only dots on the field but outside of the superstars, the fans were not particularly aware of the players. That personal electronic device, the newly invented transistor radio, was a necessity for helping new, faraway fans enjoy the game.

The Dodgers didn't disappoint on that opening day, winning 6-5 over the San Francisco Giants, another team newly relocated Knaak Editor



Along with players, broadcaster Vin Scully moved west with the Dodgers. Scully began calling Dodgers games in 1950 and remained in the booth until 2016 when he retired at the age of 88.

Fans brought radios not just to identify players but to learn what they were doing. Scully was talking to an audience who was not familiar with watching baseball. Los Angeles teams in the Pacific Coast League seldom drew more than a few hundred thousand spectators in their best years. Now more than two million fans a season filled the park. Through Scully, fans learned the finer points, the subtleties, the language of the game.

Fast-forward 61 years and fans still rely on personal electronic devices - smartphones to enhance the game experience.

Today, those devices are not nearly as necessary as the transistor radios of the 1950s. Today's ballparks are built for baseball and proudly promote how close even the cheap seats are to the action. Meanwhile, high-technology scoreboards flash a digital encyclopedia of facts but without Scully's personal style and depth of player knowledge.

I routinely attend Minnesota sports including Twins, Gophers and Loons and see "fans" more focused on their screens than on the field.

This summer offers uniquely rich and wonderful sports experiences. The Twins, after years of disappointing seasons, have spent most of the summer in first place. Minnesota's new Major League Soccer team, the Loons, play in St. Paul's new Allianz Field. Sold-out crowds are enjoying the team's first winning season since entering the league.

Watching sports is great entertainment and a chance to escape from daily pressures and stresses.

But when I look around, especially at Twins games, I see people punching their smartphones and staring into their palms instead of watching the game.

Teams actually encourage the electronic distraction by promoting app-based games such as Twingo, offering free wi-fi and asking fans to hashtag and post photos to Instagram and Twitter.

Last week, I watched a Yankees/Twins game with a couple of friends. The American League's two best teams met in one of baseball's best stadiums on a clear summer night. But that wasn't enough for some fans who couldn't keep their hands off the screen and their eyes on the field.

Along with guns and liquor, maybe stadiums should ban electronics. It's not 1958 anymore and we don't need any electronic help to understand and enjoy the game.

Unplug and relax.

## Moon landing shows what's possible

We need another moon landing. No, I'm serious. Fifty years ago, the United States achieved something that was once thought impossible. Three men traveled through outer space, landed on the moon and returned home safely. It was an outstanding moment in human history. Despite the multiple crises and antipathy raging throughout the world, people came together to watch it in awe and wonder. The first moon landing and Apollo 11 showed us that anything was possible.

The year 1969 wasn't much different than today. A divisive presidential election and infighting within the Democrats and Republicans contributed to a toxic political climate. The war in Vietnam was still raging, with American soldiers risking their lives on the battlefield. New cultural movements were growing, and civil society was bitterly divided over what course America should take.

Almost ironically, the U.S. space program and NASA were born out of this climate. With the Cold War and competition with the Soviet Union hanging over daily life, the launch of the first satellite Sputnik by the Soviets in 1957 showed that America was falling behind in technology. Investments were made, and soon we were launching satellites and sending astronauts into space. This led to an even more ambitious goal, sending a mission to the moon. In a speech in 1961, President Kennedy declared a man would be landed on the moon by the United States before the end of the decade. It would be no easy feat. Sending humans up into space and returning them to Earth was one matter. Traveling a half-million miles through space, successfully landing on another celestial body, and then being able to return home was quite another.

### Connor Kockler **Guest Writer**

developed and knowledge advanced tremendously as progress was made steadily with every test flight of new spacecraft.

When the day finally came on July 16, 1969, the launch of the massive Saturn V rocket carrying the Apollo 11 spacecraft and its crew to the moon; millions breathlessly watched in person and TV as it thunderously pushed its way into the sky. They waited and then watched in real time on television as Neil Armstrong stepped out of the lander four days later to utter those famous words "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

It truly was a giant leap. Nothing quite like this had ever been done before, and maybe not again since. When those men returned home anniversary of my residency in St. four days later, they were heroes the world over. It seemed like anything was possible now. If we could make it to the Moon, what wasn't possible? Sadly, this optimistic spirit didn't last. After five more successful moon landings, no human has set foot on the moon since 1972. The problems of society continue to exist and manifest. Here in 2019, far from believing anything is possible, it seems like we have really come down to earth in our expectations, pun intended. But maybe we don't have to resign ourselves to a pessimistic state of affairs. As President Nixon said in his speech to the Apollo astronauts on the moon, "Because of what you have done, the heavens have become a part of man's world." He then said "For one priceless

moment in the whole history of man, all the people on this Earth are truly one..."

When Nixon talked about the heavens, he was talking about space, but to me it also means something greater. It is the heavens of possibility that were opened for humankind after such an achievement of purpose. Apollo 11 and the moon landing showed through the power of determination and working together, we can solve any problem we put our collective efforts toward solving. That's a lesson we could especially take note of today.

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

### Letter to the editor Handicapped access to businesses needed

Juliana Howard, St. Joseph

This month marks the one-year Joseph. I am a big promoter of our little town and have nothing but good things to say about it, except one thing. I will frame it as a question and maybe someone can give me an answer. Why, in this vibrant, welcoming community, can't the physically handicapped folks get access to the coffee shop and the co-op on Minnesota Street, neither of which is handicapped accessible? I have a friend who uses a scooter, and she is unable to get inside these businesses. Both places are often used for group meetings and this is quite a handicap for her. This limitation doesn't make sense to me. Anyone have an answer?

champions of the press across the country.

Additionally, many support the First Amendment rights of student journalists as well as the larger media industry. Two-thirds (64 percent) of respondents agreed public school students do not need approval from school authorities to report on controversial issues in their school newspapers.

Also enlightening were reactions to questions surrounding religious freedom. Support for the First Amendment rights of religious minorities has increased by 25 percent in the past two years Now 82 percent of those surveyed agree the freedom to worship extends to all religious groups even those considered extreme or fringe.

The 2019 survey results showed continued efforts to educate the public about First Amendment freedoms are critical and that increased awareness can result in increased public support.

It took the best and brightest our country had to offer. Engineers, scientists, mathematicians and more were involved. Plans were

### **Community Calendar**

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

### Friday, Aug. 9

Brats, hot dogs and roast beef sandwiches, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions Club, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.

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

### Saturday, Aug. 10

Brats, hot dogs and roast beef sandwiches, sponsored by the St. Joseph Lions Club, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.

Being, Belonging, Be**coming,** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Benedict's Monastery. For single, Catholic women under the age of 45 to learn what monastery life is like. lrose@csbsju.edu or 320-363-7180.

Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

### Monday, Aug. 12

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

St. Joseph Fire Board, 6 p.m., Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE.

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

### Tuesday, Aug. 13

Holistic Moms Network, 7-8:30 p.m., Good Earth Coop, 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, Aug. 14 Breakfast Club, 9-10

a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. Hobos of the Great Depression. Free for members, \$7 nonmembers. 320-253-8424

St. Joseph Area Cham-

ber 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, Aug. 15

Spiritual R&R, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. St. Benedict's Monastery. Time for reflection, prayer, reading and walking. https;//sbm.osb/event/ spiritual-r-r-day-2/

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, Aug. 16

Burger and brat sale, sponsored by 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, Aug. 17 Burger and brat sale, sponsored by Knights of more information. Columbus, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., St. Joseph Meat Market, 26 First Ave. NW.

### Monday, Aug. 19

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

St. Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease Support Group, 1-2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids.

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

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

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

### Tuesday, Aug. 20

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

### Wednesday, Aug. 21

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

### Thursday, Aug. 22

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

### Friday, Aug. 23

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

### Sunday, Aug. 25

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

Potluck, Multicultural 10 a.m. Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2. "Warehoused, the Forgotten Refugees of Dadaab" will be shown. The potluck will begin at 11:30 a.m. Children are welcome and activities will be provided for them after they have eaten. 320-845-7789.

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