

# Newsleaders

Reaching Everybody!

Friday, March 20, 2020  
Volume 32, Issue 6  
Est. 1989

## Town Crier

### SYHA Raffle:

**\$41,00 in prizes**

Sartell Youth Hockey is now conducting its annual Scheels raffle with a grand prize of \$1,499.99; 100 prizes in total; 1:20 odds.

Winners can choose the awarded firearm, with proper credentials, or a gift card for the awarded value. The gift card is redeemable for any merchandise in the St. Cloud store. Tickets may be purchased at both Blue Line Bar & Grill locations, the Firing Line Indoor Range & Gun Shop, during varsity hockey games at Bernick's Arena or from SYHA members.

For more information, visit [sartellhockeyraffle.com](http://sartellhockeyraffle.com).

### Free meal drive-up

**set March 21 at FUMC**

The FREE community fellowship meal, originally a dine-in event held every third Saturday, will be conducted as a drive-up only from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at First United Methodist Church of the St. Cloud Region, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell.

### Event canceled due to Covid-19

"Building a Welcoming Community: Models of Hospitality," originally scheduled at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, March 22 at First United Methodist Church of the St. Cloud Region in Sartell, has been canceled.

### Do you like to sew?

St. Cloud Hospital is in need of surgical caps for staff use. Volunteers are asked to assist with assembling and donating the caps to help meet this urgent need. We hope you consider this unique request as an opportunity to volunteer your talent during this challenging time.

For the pattern and instructions, contact Christine Midthun at 320-251-2700 ext. 50993, [Christine.Midthun@centracare.com](mailto:Christine.Midthun@centracare.com) or Mary Krippner at 320-223-7991 or [mkrippner@unitedway-help.org](mailto:mkrippner@unitedway-help.org).

## City cancels meetings, restricts building access

The St. Joseph City Council meeting scheduled March 16 was canceled. Items from this agenda will be rescheduled, according to a statement from City Administrator Kris Ambuehl.

Due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic, the city of St Joseph will be restricting access to City Hall and other government facilities effective immediately. Access to the Community Center will also be restricted. The food shelf and Little Saints Academy will remain open, but all other functions such as Adult Basic Education, open gym and Historical Society will be stopped for the time being and the

building closed.

"In order to provide continuity of operations for city services we must protect both our staff and the public moving forward," Ambuehl wrote in the statement. "We are asking the public for the purpose of city business to communicate with city staff via phone (320-363-7201) and email [cityofstjoseph.com](mailto:cityofstjoseph.com).

If you need to pay a utility bill, use the drop-off receptacle in front of City Hall. The city of St Joseph is dedicated to protecting the residents of St Joseph, and will continue to monitor this situation."

## Borgerding urges, 'Become friend of Wobegon Trails'

by Dennis Dalman  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

Little did Cliff Borgerding realize in the 1970s that a railroad bed one-half mile from his home in Avon would someday become a bicycle trail he would come to know and love.

At that time, Borgerding worked for the Fingerhut company in St. Cloud, with lots of employees that commuted from cities to the west: Sauk Centre, Freeport, Albany and so on. He always had a wish the a shuttle railroad could be started on the Burlington Northern railroad bed so commuters could use it. But it was not to be. Instead, in 1994 the Albany Jaycees suggested turning the railroad bed into a biking-hiking trail. After negotiations with Burling-

ton Northern and many other entities, work on the trail began in fits and starts, inching eastward. By 2003, the trail extended, finally, from Albany north to Holding and from Sauk Centre to St. Joseph. In 2018, the long-awaited extension from St. Joseph to Waite Park was completed.

The Lake Wobegon Trail, as it was dubbed, was named after a gently satirical novel ("Lake Wobegon Days") about Central Minnesota cities and people written by famed humorist and radio personality Garrison Keillor, who lived many years ago in Central Minnesota, including Freeport.

Years ago, Borgerding gradually realized what a great resource the recreational trail was

**Borgerding • page 4**



contributed photo

**A bike rider approaches the old-fashioned scenic covered bridge on the Lake Wobegon Trail on its northern connection to Holdingford.**

## Virus utterly changes world – at least for a while

by Dennis Dalman  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

By mid-March, the world had utterly changed – at least for the time being – with the closings of schools, churches, nursing homes, hospitals, community events and some work places, as well as unprecedented changes in how and where people meet.

There are candidates debating without audiences, sports teams playing without spectators, students at home instead of in classrooms. And there has been widespread panic-buying of stock-up items such as toilet paper and

hand sanitizer.

And all because of a bug, invisible to the naked eye, the Covid-19 virus, which has infected people all over the world, virtually shutting down whole countries and causing rollercoaster commotion on stock markets.

It is the worst worldwide pandemic since the so-called Spanish flu pandemic in 1918, when 500 million people were infected and up to an estimated 50 million to as many as 100 million people died, most of them younger people. Among the dead were 675,000 Americans. Thanks to modern methods and re-

search, however, most disease experts think the current outbreak will be infinitely less severe than the 1918 catastrophe.

The following are just some of the major changes in life for people living in the nation, the state and here in Central Minnesota:

On March 15, Gov. Tim Walz announced a temporary shut-down of all public schools in the state, at least until late March. The closings are expected to give school officials and medical experts time to plan protective strategies. As of March 16, there were 54 cases of known CV

infections in the state, and one man in his 30s in critical condition in the Twin Cities area. Three infections were reported in Stearns County, and one person known later to be infected had visited with students and staff at Foley schools in Benton County. That news caused officials to cancel all school functions.

By March 15, area churches either canceled all church services and events or advised people most vulnerable to the virus not to attend church. Such people include those with immuno-deficiency factors (diabetes, heart or

**Virus • page 2**



# Virus

## from front page

lung troubles, for example).

On March 16, city offices in Sartell, St. Joseph and St. Cloud were closed to the public until further notice.

St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict told students to leave the campuses and prepare to participate in lectures by professors and do course work via Internet.

Senior centers, including the one in the Sartell Community Center, were closed, as was Whitney Senior Center in St. Cloud.

The perennially popular family birdhouse-building night in St. Joseph was canceled, along with many activities and events in Central Minnesota, and beyond.

Some businesses, like Walmart, cut back their open hours in order to have more time to do thorough disinfection tasks.

The St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce canceled the annual Community Showcase. It was scheduled for Saturday, April 18.

A statewide advisory was released urging people (especially those older than 60) not to attend gatherings of more than 10 people. To be extra safe, people in the vulnerable categories should not attend any gatherings at all and stay home.

Senior-care facilities, including Country Manor in Sartell and Arlington Place in St. Joseph, are virtually closed to visitors, with rare exceptions. That is also true of all of CentraCare sites, including the St. Cloud Hospital.

## People



contributed photo

**St Joseph Lions members (from left) with certificates of years service. Ken Stommes, 15; Jim Kuebelbeck, 55; Mary Stommes, 15; Keith Schleper, 10; Scott Bloch, 30; and Jim Meyer, 25.**

The St Joseph Lions Club presented service awards to six members at its March 3 meeting at Millstream Park shelter. The awards were presented to Charter Member **James Kuebelbeck**, 55 years; **Scott Bloch**, 30 years; past District 5M8 Governor **James Meyer**, 25 years; **Ken Stommes**, 15 years; President **Mary Stommes**, 15 years; and **Keith Schleper**, 10

years. Kuebelbeck is the only remaining charter member of the St Joseph Lions Club.

**Shelbi Keehr** and **Rachel Zimmer** of St. Joseph were named to the fall semester dean's honors list at Bemidji State University. To be eligible for the list, students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and earn a 3.5 grade-point av-

erage during the semester.

**Margaret Donnay** of St. Joseph was named to the fall semester president's list honors at Bemidji State University in Bemidji. To be eligible for the president's list, students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and earn a perfect 4.0 grade-point average during the semester.

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# Graduation gap still exists between white, black students

by **Mike Knaak**  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

St. Cloud's two public high schools improved their four-year graduation rates in 2019, but there's still a significant gap between white students and black students.

At Apollo High School, the overall graduation rate was 79.4 percent, compared with 77.4 percent a year earlier.

At Tech High School, the overall graduation rate was 81.4 percent compared with 79.9 percent a year earlier.

The gap between white students and black students at Apollo was 26 percentage points, with the white student rate at 90.4 percent and the black student rate at 64.1 percent.

A similar gap exists for students who are English language learners, who graduate at a

rate of 63.1 percent, and students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals, who graduate at a rate of 70.9 percent.

At Tech, the graduation gap between white and black students was 20.6 percentage points with white students graduating at a rate of 90 percent and black students graduating at a rate of 69.8 percent.

Students who are English language learners recorded a 65.22 percent rate at Tech and students who qualified for free or reduced-price meals graduated at 70.1 percent.

Statewide, the overall graduation rate improved to 83.7 percent, a half percentage-point improvement.

While graduation rates increased statewide for most racial and ethnic student groups, the graduation rate for American Indian students remained steady.

Graduation rates for black students increased 5.2 percentage points (to 69.9) and rates for Hispanic students increased 3.1 percentage points (to 69.9). For American Indian students, the rate remained between 50 and 51 percent.

Fewer students are choosing to drop out of school. From 2018 to 2019, the overall statewide dropout rate decreased from 4.6 percent to 4.4 percent. The rate also dropped for every student group.

Complete graduation data and other details about school performance are available on the Minnesota Department of Education website.

The Minnesota Report Card, online at <https://rc.education.mn.gov>, presents easy to read, mobile-friendly charts and graphs that illustrate trends for all student groups.

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**Newsleaders**

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# Lions donate to send Explorer to state competition

by Cori Hilsgen

news@thenewsleaders.com

The Y2K Lions recently donated \$400 to the Stearns County Explorer Post 250 to help fund expenses for an Explorer to attend the April 24-26 state competition in Rochester.

St. Joseph resident Stearns County Deputy Sheriff Brian Theisen attended the March 11 Y2K Lions meeting to discuss the program and accept the donation.

Theisen is one of four lead advisers from the Stearns County Sheriff's office who teaches and directs Explorer Post 250. The other three lead advisers are Deputy Eric Schultz, Jail Sgt. Steven Nohner and Deputy Tyler Johnson.

Theisen, who has been an adviser since 2008-09, said the Explorer Post is a branch of the Boy Scouts of America and offers youth ages 15-21 a chance to learn about law enforcement careers. The program is about 30 years old.

Explorers meet from 6-8 p.m. on Sundays. Currently, Explorer Post 250 has 19 members of boys and girls. New members are usually recruited in August and September.

Youth explorers start in the program by learning first aid, how to talk on the radio and geography of the county. They have several tests they are required to pass in each of these skills.

After the Explorers pass the tests, they are issued a uniform, which differs from the uniforms that patrol deputies wear. The Explorer uniforms are all brown.

The Explorers then begin training in different scenarios, such as traffic stops, domestic calls and more.

Theisen said the Explorers work hard to learn how to work these scenarios because they go on to compete at the statewide Explorer Post competition in Rochester each year. At the competition, they compete against Explorer Posts from northern Minnesota to the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metro area.

Besides the four lead advisers, other employees of the Sheriff's Office also assist with some of the Explorer training.

"I enjoy being an adviser because I am able to be a positive role model for today's youth, who don't always have many positives in their life," Theisen said. "I have had the chance to train Explorers who have gone to college and have been hired with the Stearns County Sheriff's Office and are now currently my partners. That is what makes being an adviser rewarding, seeing them grow and transition into their career."

He said the Explorers help with community service in various areas such as working and assisting with traffic control for events such as the Polar Plunge in Rockville; Sartell Community Lights events; Harvest of Horrors in St. Augusta; Relay for Life walk at Apollo High School; providing security at Camp Ripley by Little Falls, scouting events at St. Cloud State University; and other large scouting events.

"Explorers enjoy assisting at many of these events and it's a great way for them to interact with the public," Theisen said.

The state competition in Rochester costs around \$400 per explorer. This includes hotel and food costs for four days.

"Rochester is a great experience for the kids as they get to meet Explorers from all over the state," Theisen said.

The St. Joseph Lions also donated to the program. The Explorers usually also hold several meat raffles during the year to help raise funds to send all Explorers to the competition.

Theisen has been employed with the Stearns County Sheriff's office since 2001. He has



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

St. Joseph Y2K Lions members (left) Ralph Boeckers and Becky Staneart (right) discuss the Stearns County Explorer Program with lead adviser Stearns County Sheriff's Deputy Brian Theisen. The Y2K Lions donated funds March 11 to send an Explorer to the April 24-26 Rochester state competition. Boeckers worked for the Stearns County Sheriff's Department for 30 years and Theisen has been employed with the office since 2001.

lived in St. Joseph since 2004, and said he calls St. Joseph his home and takes pride in the community.

Theisen has been a member of the St. Joseph Fire Department for seven years. He was also elected as a St. Joseph

City Council member in January 2019.

"Being on the Fire Department and City Council (has) been a wonderful experience for me to give back and help the community," he said. "I hope both will continue for a

long time."

Theisen and his wife Barb are parents to five children.

For additional information about the Explorers program, contact Theisen by email at [brian.theisen@co.stearns.mn.us](mailto:brian.theisen@co.stearns.mn.us).

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# Borgerding

from front page

for Central Minnesota: connecting cities along the trail; people enjoying the trail while getting to know one another; an economic boost for the cities and businesses along the way; a ideal scenic trail for theme bike rides, walks and fundraisers.

Borgerding is a past president for eight years of the Lake Wobegon Trails Association, a board member, bike-ride director and longtime promoter of the trail. Borgerding was organizer of the Caramel Roll (bike) Ride for 15 years and started the Lady Slipper Nature Ride and the Caramel Apple Ride eight years ago.

“Obviously, I had a lot of volunteer help (throughout) the years to make the rides and the trail so successful,” he said. “But now I’m running out of energy, hence the need for help.”

Borgerding and other trail supporters have started holding “Friends of the Lake Wobegon Trails” meetings in cities along the trail, including a recent one at the Bad Habit Brewing Co. in St. Joseph. The purpose of the meetings is to enlist support for the trail network in a variety of ways: financial contributions, hands-on trail maintenance, or-



contributed photo

**Cliff Borgerding of Avon is a long-time booster of the Lake Wobegon Trail system. In the photo he is holding one of the many walking sticks he has carved, earning him the nickname “Stick Man.”**

ganizing efforts, serving on the Trails Board and outreach promotions to get schools, health

organizations and others to use the trails on a regular basis.

“We would like to have a minimum of seven to nine board members,” Borgerding said. “Right now we only have four members. The goal of the LWTA (Lake Wobegon Trail Association) is to promote the trails and the communities along the trails, the businesses on the trails and to bring more visitors to our communities to add to our local economies.”

Current board members are Borgerding of Avon, Joe Christensen of Holdingford, Lucy Thomas from St. Cloud and Alison Dudek of Albany.

Another good reason to join the Friends of the Lake Wobegon Trails organization is to do volunteer work with other groups so more trail connections can be realized – connections to the Central Lakes Trail, the Soo Line Trail, the Beaver Islands Trail, the Rocori Trail and the Glacial Lakes Trail. That network of connective and near-connective trails in Central Minnesota has become widely known and praised as one of the finest, most scenic trail networks in the nation.

“We need more people to step up and help us continue



contributed photo

**The Minnesota State Flower, the Lady Slipper, is often seen by walkers and riders on the Lake Wobegon Trail system.**

the work of the association,” Borgerding said. “We have too few people on the board to effectively do what needs to be done. It’s not that difficult or challenging to do, but we just need more bodies to help spread the workload.”

Other volunteer duties include organizing ride events such as printing posters, activating online registrations, doing mailings about ride details and lining up volunteers for the events.

The LWTA frequently works with other organizations to expand and maintain the network of trails.

“We work with groups such as the Camp Ripley Veterans Trail to help get their trail completed,” Borgerding said. “Completion of that one will connect the Paul Bunyan Trail to the Soo Line Trail, which is connected to the Lake Wobegon Trail. We also work to support other trail efforts, including the City of St. Cloud to complete their leg of the Wobegon Trail from Apollo High School to Hester Park at the Mississippi River.”

Borgerding said people who belong to Friends of the Trails Association will receive benefits, including discounts on ride

events and LWTA merchandise, as well as a logo to attach to a bike, car or place of business.

And, not to forget, he added, the “Friends” will have so much fun along with any benefits.

“We hope to create activities with special benefits for our “Friends” to make the experience even more fun,” he said. “These events would be a way to bring trail users together. Examples would be casual spontaneous rides with a social activity afterward. Maybe a visit to a local brew pub (Bad Habit, Pan Town, Beaver Island, etc.) cidery (Milk & Honey Cider) or winery (Millner Heritage, Carlos Creek) to just enjoy the benefits of a social gathering. It could include a visit to a special place on the trail like a great restaurant (Fisher’s Club), ice-cream shop (e.g. Oak Station in Freeport), or visit Lake Wobegon sites made famous by Garrison Keillor.”

To find out more about the LWTA and the “Friends” organization, visit the website at lakewobegontrail.com. People may also call Borgerding at 320-293-9364 or email him at cliffwtrail@gmail.com.

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## TCHS receives \$9,400 donation

The Tri-County Humane Society recently received a donation of \$9,400 from realtor Janel Morgan of ReMax Results.

TCHS's executive director, Vicki Davis, received the \$9,400 check at a ceremony.

“We are so grateful for the

Janel Morgan's team's generous support. In addition to this gift, their team promoted our activities and became helping hands at several of our 2019 events.”

The gift, Davis said, will be used to help the more than

3,000 animals who arrive at TCHS every year, and some of the money will be used to help the ongoing fund for the TCHS's new building and animal shelter now under construction behind the current “old” shelter in east St. Cloud.



## PERSONAL FINANCE GUIDE | MONEY PITFALLS

# Avoid Savings Mistakes

It may surprise you that there are several wrong ways to save money. If you're not taking advantage of high interest returns or acquiring penalties for ignoring certain debts, it may hurt you in the long run.

One common misstep many Americans take is by participating in a "spending fast." The general idea is people will avoid making purchases for anything other than necessities. Sure, if done properly, there will undoubtedly be more money for savings. However, many end up feeling deprived, leading them to make impulse purchases without learning to better manage their funds.

A good way to avoid this from happening is to change spending habits gradually. Rather than going out on the town or eating at expensive restaurants, plan an evening at home with friends and prepare a meal. Put the money you saved in an account, you'll be rewarded as you watch your nest egg grow.

## SAVING TOO MUCH

Focusing on savings over everything else can do more harm than good. If you have debts that are accruing high interest rates, don't settle for minimum payments so more can go towards savings. Instead, determine how much you can put into savings at the end of each month and put some of the funds towards getting out of debt. Once you knock down these expensive debts with your surplus, then you can begin increasing your contribution to savings.

## NO EMERGENCY FUND

Sure, having money in the bank is great but what happens if a life-changing event like losing a job, needing a new vehicle or an unexpected medical expense occurs? The professionals at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority recommend having enough cash to cover three to six months of regular income. Make sure to keep these funds in a separate account to not blur the lines between savings and emergencies.

## NOT EARNING ON SAVINGS

Don't be afraid to shop around at banks. Talk with their experts about opening a savings account and discuss earning potential. Many organizations offer competitive point systems or high interest rewards. Help your money grow.



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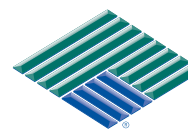
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# Opinion

## Our View

### Accurate census headcount vital for Minnesota

This count really counts.

In the past 10 days, most people received a letter from the U.S. Census Bureau asking for participation in the 2020 Census.

While public health stories dominate the daily news, the census deserves some attention too.

Every 10 years, the federal government counts how many people live here.

Governments use that data to fund and plan a variety of social, educational and public safety expenses. The count is used to direct billions of federal funds for schools, roads and other public services. Census data also drives planning for transportation needs and emergency readiness.

Most importantly, the count is used to draw political boundaries and determine our representatives at all levels of government.

The Supreme Court struck down the Trump Administration's effort to ask a citizenship question that would presumably depress the accuracy of a headcount. We need to emphasize the census counts the number of people as stated in the Constitution, not citizens.

Getting an accurate count is always important, but this year, an accurate count carries significant implications for Minnesota's 5.6 million people.

Latest population estimates show slower growth in Minnesota that could mean the state will lose a seat in the House of Representatives and one of its 10 Electoral College votes.

The census this spring will determine how the country's 435 congressional seats are divided up. Minnesota barely hung onto its eight seats after the last census in 2010, but its growth hasn't kept pace with states such as Florida and Texas that are poised to gain seats. Minnesota's projected population could fall between 21,000 and 25,000 people short of keeping the seat.

The census letter includes a website and a unique ID so you can complete the survey online. The questions are simple: names, ages, gender and race of people who live at your address. The process takes less than 10 minutes.

If you don't respond online, the Census Bureau will send you a paper questionnaire to complete and mail back.

Your response is required by law and your answers are confidential. If you don't respond online or by mail, the Census Bureau will send an interviewer to your home to collect your answers in person.

The new population estimates illustrate the importance of an accurate census count this spring and summer.

Growth is driven by births, deaths and migration. The number of births has remained low since the recession and there has been slower international immigration for several years, according to the consulting firm Election Data Services. The biggest swing in 2019 was a steep dive in the number of people arriving in Minnesota from other states, dropping from 6,500 to nearly zero.

Minnesota's population grew by about 0.6 percent last year, or about 33,000 people. That was down slightly from 0.7 percent the prior year. Annual growth rates have generally hovered in that range since 2011, though they nearly reached 0.8 percent in 2017. Texas, by comparison, grew by about 1.3 percent last year.

Do your part to make sure every person that's here gets counted. Fill out your form. Remind your friends and family to do the same. Encourage members of the community who may be new U.S. residents and who may be skeptical about the government asking personal details. Offer to help those who need assistance online or with the paper form.

During these stressful days, it's understandable we focus on immediate fears and concerns. But take a few minutes to complete the census form that will shape the country for years ahead.

## Do your part to keep voting efficient, secure

**Mike Knaak**  
Editor



requested by among other measures never mentioning party names.

But for the presidential primary, a list of who selected which party would be provided to party leaders. The voters who questioned this change were more concerned about getting a blizzard of mail for political parties or candidates than about secrecy.

I think most voters would be more comfortable with one ballot for all parties.

We still have two more elections ahead: an Aug. 11 primary to select candidates for nonpresidential offices and the general election on Nov. 3.

Those elections will go smoother for you and speed your way through the polling place if you prepare now.

If you've moved, make sure you've updated your registration. That can be done on election day but it slows down the process. And you'll need to bring a photo ID such as a driver's license and a document with your new address. If your license has your new, correct address you're all set. Otherwise you'll need a bank statement, utility bill or lease to prove where you live. To avoid delays, update your registration now at the Minnesota Secretary of State's website: [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/)

You need to vote where you live. I've helped one or two people in each election who think they can vote at any polling place.

Make sure you know your polling place location. Just because you've vot-

ed at the same location for years, don't assume it hasn't been changed. The Secretary of State's website has a convenient poll finder and much more information such as information about early voting at [www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/).

I've seen voters go to the wrong polling place because they've asked their neighbors where to vote. Sometimes that works and sometimes it doesn't. Streets determine precinct boundaries so your neighbor across the street may vote elsewhere.

When you arrive at the polling place, you'll find a sample ballot listing all the candidates. If you haven't done your homework, this is your last chance to check on candidates. I've seen voters scan the sample ballot and be surprised by all the candidates and offices they can vote for. We're all focused on president and Congress, but there are many more local offices on the ballot.

During the 2018 election, I watched one young woman spend a good deal of time in front of the sample ballot with her smartphone researching all the candidates. I salute her diligence, but a little planning would have simplified her visit to the polls.

In the past three years, there's been lots of talk about the security of our voting system. At least on the state and local level, our system is pretty secure. Minnesota uses paper ballots and there's a documented paper trail of results. State and county election officials go to great lengths to make sure every voter who is eligible to vote gets to vote. We polling place workers take our oath seriously. We protect the integrity of the voting process and the security of the polls.

For years, Minnesota's turnout is the highest in the nation. Let's keep the streak going.

## Northstar great option for Twin Cities travel

**Connor Kockler**  
Guest Writer



in downtown Minneapolis by 8:15 a.m., not a bad amount of time, even with the train making stops at several places like Elk River on the route to downtown.

Along with the convenience, I also couldn't beat the cost. Going round trip from St. Cloud to Minneapolis and back again was \$11 per day. Driving down more than 70 miles to the Cities, parking in a ramp and then driving back again would cost much more than that. For the amount of money I would have had to spend on gas and parking over three days of driving to Minneapolis, the Northstar Link was an easy choice.

Overall, it was a good experience and I was glad I had the Northstar as an option to use. It made getting to and from the Twin Cities very convenient and cheap compared with my alternatives. It was also great for getting some extra sleep or working on some reading for my classes. This was really helpful because it was time I wouldn't have had to work if I was driving and needing to pay attention to the road.

This leads into recent discussion about whether Northstar could be extended to St. Cloud. While the debate

about the cost continues to be an issue, I think the concept itself could be a good investment for the St. Cloud area and provide an alternative to the long and costly drive to the Twin Cities. I think with the right kind of promotion and awareness, a significant rider base could be built. It could essentially "pay for itself," serving commuters and day trippers and reducing congestion on I-94. On the three days I rode, the train was about three-fourths full so there is already a large amount of people who use it. I especially think of the benefit a St. Cloud-to-Minneapolis train could have for students, especially for out-of-state students in Central Minnesota who can't otherwise make it to the Twin Cities and the airport.

Northstar was a great option for me to travel down to the Twin Cities and I would highly recommend it as an option for commuting. It is extremely economical as well, saving a lot of money versus driving. It also creates extra time in your day to work and get stuff done while riding the train. I would encourage people to give Northstar another look; I'm glad I did.

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



# Emmer votes against coronavirus bill passed by the House

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Rep. Tom Emmer was one of 40 Republicans who voted against a bill to address the coronavirus pandemic.

The measure passed the House late March 13 by a vote of 363-40 and awaits Senate action. Donald Trump supports the bill.

The legislation guarantees free coronavirus testing, establishes paid leave, enhances unemployment insurance, expands food security initiatives and increases federal Medicaid funding.

The Senate passed the bill, with technical modifications, March 18.

If the bill is approved by the Senate and signed



Emmer

by the president, it would grant two weeks of paid sick leave at 100 percent of the person's normal salary, up to \$511 per day.

It would also provide up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave at 67 percent of the person's normal pay, up to \$200 per day.

In a statement, Emmer criticized how fast the vote moved forward and that the House "operated in the middle of the night."

Emmer's statement continued, "Perhaps worst of all, in a time where spending is out of control, nobody even bothered to calculate the costs of these measures."

Two years ago, Emmer voted for Trump's tax cut, which mostly aided businesses and those with high incomes and added \$1.9 trillion to the deficit over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

## PUBLIC NOTICE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MINNESOTA

Pursuant to Chapter 333, Minnesota Statutes, the undersigned, who is or will be conducting or transacting a commercial business in the State of Minnesota under an assumed name, hereby certifies:

1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted is: Living the Dream Homes.

2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 1622 11th Ave. S.E., St. Cloud, MN 56304.

3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above assumed name including any corporations that may be conducting this business: Savvy Maverick LLC, 1622 11th Ave. S.E., St. Cloud, MN 56304.

4. I certify I am authorized to sign this certificate and I further certify I understand by signing this certificate, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.

Dated: Feb. 23, 2020

Filed: Feb. 24, 2020

/s/ Janelle Schneekloth

Publish: March 6 & 20, 2020

## PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF ST. STEPHEN ADVERTISEMENT OF BIDS: PARKS LAWN MOWING

The City of St. Stephen is now accepting bids for the mowing of its parks for the year 2020. The City will accept bids from today until 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

The following information should be included in the bid: Company name, address, phone number and proof of insurance.

Mowing, trimming and blowing of grass is required at all sites. Mowing will be timed so the length of the grass is maintained at a height of approximately 2-1/2 inches to 5 inches, but under no circumstances will mowing occur more than six (6) times in a calendar month, unless prior authorization is granted by the Mayor or a designated Council member. In addition to mowing, please include pricing for fertilizing the Smoley ball fields along with spraying the fence lines of the ball fields.

The following properties are to be maintained:  
Ponds Edge Park: Fifth Avenue SE  
Hlebain Park: 504 First St. SE  
Parkway Park: 606 First St. NE  
Smoley Fields (Upper & Lower): 25 Fifth St. NE  
City Hall: 2 Sixth Ave. SE  
City Garage: 14th Avenue SE

Please provide a per cut amount for each property listed above.

The City Garage property is NOT to be mowed weekly. A monthly/bi-monthly per cut amount can be prepared.

Please submit a bid sheet to: City of St. Stephen, 2 Sixth Ave. SE, St. Stephen, MN 56375. Please mark your envelope: Lawn Mowing Bid 2020.

Bids will be opened during the April City Council Meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

/s/ Cris M Drais, City Clerk

Dated: March 16, 2020

Publish: March 20, 2020

## 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, March 20**  
**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.

**Monday, March 23**  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf**, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

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

**Monday, March 30**  
**St. Joseph Township Board**, 8 p.m., Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S., St. Joseph.

**Wednesday, April 1**  
**St. Cloud school board meeting and work session**, 6:30 p.m., District Administration Office, 1201 Second St. S.,

Waite Park. Limited access in person. Check website www.isd742.org for online participation.

**Thursday, April 2**  
**Great River Regional Coin Club**, 6:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud.

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# How to stay safe from Covid-19 infection

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

The following are prevention tips on how to best stay safe from the Covid-19 virus. These tips are based on information from the National Centers for Disease Control, based in Atlanta.

Wash hands repeatedly all day with soap and hot water, and avoid touching one's face. Do not shake hands or give hugs. Try to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from people, especially people you do not know. Avoid touching, kissing or hugging elderly people, even parents and grandparents.

If at all possible, hunker down at home and do not attend any large gatherings (even family gatherings). This self-isolation, or social-distancing, as it's called, should continue at least until after extensive testings, until the extent of the virus's spread and its effects are widely understood.

Symptoms of infection may include fever, dry cough, shortness of breath and possibly muscle aches and a headache. However, people with those symptoms should not panic as

they can be onset symptoms of other illnesses, as well.

Covid-19 symptoms can appear anywhere from two to 14 days after exposure. The average time is five days from exposure.

If you fear you have Covid-19 infection, the best thing to do is call a clinic to find out the next steps you should take.

There is a Covid-19 hotline number: 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903.

The best site for updates of background information and updates on coronavirus is the webpage of the Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia. Google that site and it will pop up. Other good, reliable sites for information are the Minnesota Department of Health and for specifically central Minnesota updates Stearns County. Go to StearnsCountyMN.gov.

The most important advice from the CDC is this: "Do not panic." Try to be cool, calm and rational. Do not seek information about the virus from social media. Some wildly inaccurate sites are still claiming the pandemic is nothing but a "hoax," and some other sites are promoting fears, panic or scams.

# Refugee/immigrant news: summer soccer league planned

*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.*

Cultural Bridges is sponsoring a summer soccer program for all children who live in and around St. Joseph. This will be for children going into second grade through eighth grade. The information to register will be in the next issue of the Newsleader.

The format will be a half-hour practice and a half-hour game two nights per week. The cost will be \$40 per child.

The season will run from June 16 to Aug. 8. Each child will need to bring a soccer ball and shin guards.

We are also looking for referees. Anybody going into ninth grade or older can be a referee. Referees will get paid. The referees will get trained and need to do a background check.

Please watch for more details in the next Newsleader. Email us at StJoeSoccer5@gmail.com if you would like to know more, have any questions or want to communicate with us by email.

We are planning on playing soccer this summer even though

the coronavirus is keeping us home now. Hopefully by June this will be behind us.

...

Koronafayraska Cusub ee 2019 Koronafayraska Cusub ee 2019 (COVID-19) waa cudur neef-mareen oo ku dhaca dadka oo uu sababo fayras cusub. Wuxuuna ku faafi karaa qof ka qof. Fayraskan ayaa markii ugu horraysay laga helay magaalada Wuhan, ee dalka Shiinaha, wuxuuna hadda ku faafay waddamo badan oo u ka mid yahay Maraykanka.

Maadaama u kani yahay fayras cusub, wali waxa jira waxyaabo aynaan aqoon, laakiin maalin kasta waxaa soo ifbaxa waxyaabo cusub oo ku saabsan cudurka COVID-19.

Kooxaha ama faydhorka caafimaadka guud ee Minnesota ayaa arrintan u qaata si culus oo u qorsheysanaya suurtagalnimada inay jiri doonaan dad u ku dhaco.

Iska ilaali qaadashada fikradda ku saabsan qofka aad u maleyneyso inuu jirran yahay, sababtoo ah fayraskan ma xulan-ayo cidda uu ku dhacayo.

Calaamadaha

Dadka la xaqiijiyay inay qaabaan cudurka COVID-19 ayaa leh jirro neefsasho dhexdhexaad illaa mid daran ah oo leh calamaado ay ka mid yihiin:

Qandho

Qufac

Neefsashada oo gaabis ah

Dadka yarha dareemaya cudurka COVID-19 waxay joo-

gi karaan guryahooda inta uu xanuunku hayo. In aad daryeel caafimaad u baxayso mooyeeni gurigaada ku ekoow. Waxaad la xirirtaa dhakhtarkaaga had-dii aad u baahantahay daryeel caafimaad.

Ka Hortag u samee naftaada iyo bulshadaadaba

Siyaabaha ugu wanaagsan ee aad iskaga ilaalin karto cudurka COVID-19 waa inaad samayso isla waxyaabaha aad samayso inaad iskaga ilaaliso durayga iyo hargabka:

Gacmahaaga marwalaba ku dhaq saabuun iyo biyo.

Guriga joog markaad xanuunsantahay.

Dabool afkaaga iyo sankaa markaad qufacaso.

Nadiifi oo jeermiska ka dil meelaha iyo dusha ah ee aad taabato had iyo jeer.

Ogow wax intaa dheer

Ka hel macluumaadka ugu dambeeyay ee ku saabsan cudurka COVID-19 barahan internetka:

Waxda Caafimaadka Minnesota Koronafayraska Cusub ee 2019 (COVID-19) ([www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html)).

Xarumaha Xakameynta iyo Ka Hortagga Cudurka ee Koronafayraska Cusub ee 2019 ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)).

...

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



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