

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Feb. 4, 2022
Volume 34, Issue 3
Est. 1989

Town Crier

Tails on Trails to take place Feb. 27

Tails on Trails for dog owners, dog lovers, family and friends will be held from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27 at Millstream Park, 725 CR 75 W., St Joseph. Take a walk on the trails while playing "Clue" Covid edition, ride on a dogsled, watch Solid Results trainers work their dogs, talk with Sgt. Hoffman about police K9 units, visit Rescues about adopting a dog or cat, try some "Doga" (bring your yoga gear), take a photo with your pup, learn about agility training, purchase doggie treats from Brayden's Pawfect treats and visit with Petsmart about what they have to offer. Come enjoy the outdoors!

Assist with TriCAP's free tax program!

Tax volunteers are needed to assist with TriCAP's free tax-prep program. Volunteers will enable them to provide accessible tax services that put 100 percent of refunds into taxpayers' pockets, often helping them meet basic needs and save for the future. This experience is rewarding and you will gain lots of practical knowledge. You will be working with local professionals as well as building a great resume. Training is provided and volunteers become IRS-tax certified. They are looking for volunteers in all capacities for their sites. Visit www.tricap.org to learn more. Contact the Tax Program Manager at tricaptaxes@tricap.org or 320-251-1612.

Central MN Arts grant deadline is March 31

The Central Minnesota Community Foundation has opened its annual Central Minnesota Arts Grant round. The purpose of the grant is to support small- to medium-sized arts organizations that make arts more accessible to area residents. The application deadline is March 31.

Focus areas of the Central Minnesota Arts Grant include visual art and performing arts, including dance, music and drama. Eligible organizations must be 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations, schools or governmental entities. The focus area for this grant is to support visual art or performing arts. For more information about the grant round and specific criteria for each grant round, visit www.communitygiving.org/grants.

INSERT:
Minnesota Street Market



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Slip, slidin' away

The Drontle sisters whiz down a hill Jan. 29 during Snowfest at Memorial Park. They are (left) Addison, 10, and Charlotte, 8, both of St. Joseph. The event was sponsored by St. Joseph Park & Rec.

Great River Energy to host open house for power line project

contributed article

Great River Energy, wholesale electric supplier to Stearns Electric Association, is proposing to rebuild an existing 3.2-mile, 69-kV transmission line to 115-kV in the St. Joseph area. Great River Energy will host a public information open house to share details about the project.

The public and other interested parties are encouraged to stop by the open house anytime from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17 at the St. Joseph Community Fire Station, 323 Fourth Ave. NE to learn about the project. Great River Energy staff will be available to answer questions and hear feedback on the project.

Educational job needs crippling across state

by Hayley Olson
news@thenewsleaders.com

Across the nation we are seeing a shortage of educators; teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, teacher's aids, social workers, counselors, food staff, bus drivers and more.

When school started in September of 2021, there was a major district in Minnesota that started the year with more than 100 openings. The number of openings in districts across the state has continued to fluctuate.

Around the St. Cloud metro area, there are districts and buildings in dire need of staff, who are calling on retired teachers and community members to step in. Sartell-St. Stephen school district has 30 staff vacancies, Sauk Rapids-Rice has 35 staff vacancies, Little Falls has 11 openings and the St. Cloud school district currently has more than 100 staff vacancies. In these vacancies there

is a need even at Kennedy Community School where they are seeking a paraprofessional.

Speaking with staff from districts in the area, it's evident how much of an impact the staffing shortage has on teachers, kids and schools. Staff who are not based in classrooms are being pulled from their jobs to teach in classrooms, sometimes for the entire day.

Due to this, students who need intervention, social work minutes or time with support staff are not getting what they need. One educator from the St. Cloud school district called it chaotic.

"Personally, it's left me without my support," she said. "I'm not able to provide all of my students the support and individual attention they need and deserve."

Staff are also being affected by this change. Teachers are working to support more than just the students in their class-

Jobs • page 9

SJU names new dean

by Leanne Loy and guest writer
editor@thenewsleader.com

On July 1, Dr. Shawn Colberg will begin his new position as the dean of the St. John's School of Theology and Seminary. Colberg will replace Fr. Dale Launderville, OSB, who has served in the position since 2015.

Colberg is currently the associate professor of theology at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University and associate dean in the St. John's School of Theology and Seminary.

"I am honored to serve St. John's School of Theology and Seminary as dean," Colberg said. "We have a tremendous

mission which stands at the heart of St. Ben's and St. John's to deliver world-class theological education and formation that prepares women and men for collaborative service and transformational leadership in the church and wider world."

Originally from Dassel, Minnesota with his home parish in nearby Darwin, Colberg received his undergraduate degree from St. Olaf College. He completed a master of divinity degree at the Yale School of Divinity and earned a doctorate from the University of Notre Dame with areas of focus in medieval and Reformation theology.

"We are positioned to do

Dean • page 5



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Skating on thin ice at Snowfest

Boots, paws and skates grace the ice Jan. 29 during Snowfest at Memorial Park. From left to right are Zoey the dog; Courtney Brever; Paige Brever 4 months; Katie Loso; 11, Skylar Brever; 4, Scott Brever and Lily Brever, 2. All are from St. Joseph.

Family-owned bakery brings goodies right to your home



contributed photo

Puff da Pastry owner Grace Oey with one of her sweet treats. Oey took advantage of the pandemic lockdowns and followed her dreams.

by **Michelle Sharp**
Guest writer

A silver lining of the pandemic is how it has encouraged so many of us to evaluate how we want to spend our time and what we want to put into the world. For Grace Oey of Puff da Pastry the pandemic became a time of reflection.

“I want to do something positive in addition to being a mom and a wife,” Oey said. “I want to create something that I can share with others. I think food is a way to connect with each other.”

An example of that connection was a recent gift order for a Sartell family from a relative living hours away. Among the unique aspects of Puff da Pastry’s business model is delivery. This way Puff da can bring something made with love and care to you and your loved ones, even if you can’t get it yourself.

“There are many reasons how and why we started Puff da Pastry,” Oey said. “I love to bake something I’d give my children. At the end of the day, we hope to share diversity, creativity and positivity through Puff da Pastry.”

After learning about the Minnesota Cottage Food Producer laws, Oey said she realized there was a way to start a business from home. She can still be with her two young daughters while expressing her artistic creativity. Formally trained as an interior designer, Oey now creates a unique menu of baked goods available on a weekly basis.

Oey began baking as a child with her mom for her family’s celebrations of the Chinese New Year. As her mom’s assistant she took charge of mea-

suring, mixing and egg-washing.

“Looking back,” Oey said, “it’s really interesting because my mom didn’t have a stand mixer like we all have now. I really had to work and hold it long enough to cream the butter and the sugar. I complained as a child. How much longer? It’s taking too long.”

Oey and her husband Adrian Wijasa were both born in Indonesia. When Oey first lived on her own, she moved to Singapore, a key culinary step.

“Living in Singapore really opened up my taste buds,” she said. “I tried a lot of new foods while I lived there. Now in the United States I have found there are even more kinds of foods.”

Baking was a hobby and happy place for Oey. She had long been the whole family’s birthday cake baker. After trying many recipes, she started experimenting with puff pastries.

The puff pastries are the ultimate Minnesota mash up. The spiral puff on her menu is a traditional Indonesian pastry. Her rainbow puff is Chinese influenced. She and her husband studied the Minnesota Cottage Food Producers guide to figure out how to turn these traditionally savory pastries into sweet ones.

Since beginning to take orders in February 2021, Oey has expanded her menu to include cruffins, stuffed cookies, mochi brownies and mochi donuts.

If you haven’t tried a mochi donut, you’re in for a treat. Oey creates new flavors on a nearly monthly basis. The original recipe calls for a fried donut, but Oey found that

those lost their distinctive texture within a day. She went through several experiments to create the version she now sells.

“I’m very proud of the mochi donut,” Oey said, “Cosmonuts, the artistic twist of the baked mochi donuts, have gained quite a bit of great reviews and sales! I can keep the crispiness on the outside with the chewy, mochi texture on the inside and make sure all the flavors are balanced.”

Balanced is the word that fits for all the Puff da pastries. You can taste the high-quality ingredients, not just the sweet. Oey sources organic ingredients as much as possible in her baking. She uses Peace Coffee to create the deep warmth of her mocha flavors.

Puff da is a family affair. Adrian, a programmer at St. John’s University, designed the website and serves as co-pilot on deliveries. Their children help with taste testing and come along for deliveries. The family turns the deliveries into an opportunity to explore, stopping at playgrounds and local restaurants and food markets for takeout.

In addition to the website, you can follow Puff da Pastry on Facebook and Instagram @puffdapastry for menu updates and rotating specials.

Sharp is a freelance journalist in Eagan. She is the founder of Meet the Minnesota Makers, a site dedicated to the promotion of innovative makers and growers throughout our wonderful state. Follow her on Facebook and Instagram @meettheminnesotamakers to discover more local businesses.

Power

from front page

along the route.

“We will contact each affected property owner to discuss the project,” Aukee said. “Construction is expected to occur in summer of 2024.”

A fact sheet, which includes a detailed map, can be found at <http://www.greatriverenergy.com/stjosephupgrade>.

Great River Energy is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative that provides electricity to 28 member-owner distribution cooperatives. Together, their systems provide power to approximately two-thirds of Minnesota geographically and parts of Wisconsin, serving 700,000 families, farms and businesses. Learn more at greatriverenergy.com.

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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.

Saturday, Feb. 5

Diabetes Prevention Program, free workshop, meets in-person and on zoom, Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. Workshop dates include: 9-10 a.m. Saturdays, Feb. 5-May 21; 9-10 a.m. Tuesdays, April 12-July 26; and 11:15-12:15 p.m. Thursdays, May 5-Aug. 18. This program is designed for people with pre-diabetes. 320-650-3082, whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us.

Open Shopday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Bruno Press, 154 Fifth Ave. SE, St. Joseph, enter through the garage. Shop, print a thing, have a snack, learn something new!

Monday, Feb. 7

Blood Drive, 1-7 p.m., sponsored by Avon Women of Today and American Red Cross, Avon Community Church, 204 Avon Ave. N. For information or to make an appointment to donate, call 1-800-733-2767 or sign up online at redcrossblood.org with sponsor code:

Cancer: Thriving & Surviving, 1:30-4 p.m. This free workshop meets via zoom each Monday from Feb. 7-March 21. 320-650-3082, whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us.

St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.

St. Joseph Women of Today, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE. Join other women to do

charitable projects and have fun social events.

Tuesday, Feb. 8

St. Joseph Food Shelf, 1-3 p.m., 18 Birch St. E, St. Joseph. Visit Facebook page for schedule changes and updates.

Wednesday, Feb. 9

St. Cloud Schools Board of Education Agenda Planning Committee, 8 a.m., District 742 Administration Office, 1201 S. Second St., Waite Park.

Men's Health Series, this

free workshop meets in-person and via zoom from 9-10 a.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 9, March 9, April 6, May 11 and June 8. For more information contact 320-650-3082 or email whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us. Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Dr, St. Cloud.

Walk With Ease, this free workshop meets in-person from 10-11 a.m., Wednesdays through Feb. 23, Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. 320-650-3082, email whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us.

St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce, noon-1 p.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. stjosephchamber.com.

"Voter Suppression," presented by the St. Cloud Area League of Women Voters. 1 p.m. via Zoom. For more information visit www.lwvsc.org.

St Joseph Y2K Lions Club,

6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave NE.

Thursday, Feb. 10

Health Coaches for Hypertension Control, free workshop, meets 1-2:30 p.m. Thursdays through April 7 via Zoom or in-person, Whitney Senior Center, 1527

Calendar • page 6

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Earn Extra Income

Volunteer in your community as a paid volunteer! Lutheran Social Service of MN is seeking volunteers to provide companionships to older adults. Volunteers of the program qualify for small hourly tax-free stipends and transportation reimbursement.

Please contact Janel at 320.241.5173 or Janel.Heinen@lssmn.org for more information and to make an impact in your community!!

KRAMER FINANCIAL

INVESTING WITH A PLAN

James Kramer III Honored as one of LPL Financial's Top Financial Advisors

James Kramer III, an independent LPL Financial advisor at Kramer Financial in St. Cloud, was recently recognized for his inclusion in the LPL Patriot's Club. This elite award is presented to less than 9% of the firm's more than 17,000 financial advisors nationwide.

"On behalf of LPL, I congratulate James on reaching this milestone in his professional career," said Angela Xavier, LPL executive vice president, Independent Advisor Services. "Business owners, American investors and industries at large faced extraordinary challenges throughout 2020. In the advisor-mediated financial advice market, investors showed how much value they place on a trusting relationship with a financial advisor. We applaud James for his commitment to clients and resiliency as a business owner, and we are inspired by his dedication to making a meaningful impact in the lives of his clients. It is an honor to support James and we wish him and his entire team continued success."

Kramer is affiliated with LPL Financial, the nation's largest independent broker-dealer and a leader in the retail financial advice market. LPL provides the resources, tools and technology that support advisors in their work to enrich their clients' financial lives.

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NOTICE

Please join us for an

OPEN HOUSE

to learn about an important electric power line project being proposed by Great River Energy in St. Joseph

THURSDAY, FEB. 17, 2022
4 - 6 p.m.
St. Joseph Community Fire Station
323 4th Ave NE
St. Joseph, MN 56374

*No formal presentation will be given.
Attendees are encouraged to come anytime during the hours indicated.*

GREAT RIVER ENERGY invites you to attend a public open house meeting regarding a proposed 3.2-mile, 115-kV rebuild of an overhead transmission line. The purpose of this transmission project is to rebuild an existing 69-kV transmission line to 115-kV. Over the last decade, Great River Energy has been upgrading the St. Joseph area to a more reliable 115-kV transmission system. This project will complete the area upgrade and loop the 115-kV system. This project will benefit people and businesses in the area by:

- Ensuring continuing reliable service to customers in the future
- Improving electric reliability by adding a second electric source at the substation

If you have questions, please contact:
Dale Aukee
Great River Energy
12300 Elm Creek Blvd.
Maple Grove, MN 55369
612-840-4019 | daukee@grenergy.com

Project updates can be found at greatriverenergy.com/stjosephupgrade

Your feedback is important to us. We encourage you to attend the open house to have your questions answered and provide any comments you may have.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The map shows the proposed 115-kV transmission line route through Saint Wendel Township, City of St. Joseph, and St. Joseph Township. It identifies existing 69-kV and 115-kV lines, substations (Le Sauk, West St. Cloud, Westwood), and other infrastructure. A legend explains the symbols for Great River Energy and Steam Electric Association lines and substations. A scale bar indicates 0, 500, and 1,000 feet.

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People

Ten St. Joseph students were recently named to the fall dean's list at St. Cloud State University.

They and their majors are as follows: **Samantha Bray**, accounting; **Amanda Burton**, technology management; **Ashley Grise**, graphic de-

sign; **Hunter Harnett**, biomedical sciences; **Mitchell Hieserich**, philosophy; **Taylor Nordine**, nursing; **Kayla Petroski**, PSEO; **Brittany Pozorski**, elementary/K-6 education; **Breeana Schmidt**, PSEO; and **Olivia Smith**, social work.

To be eligible for the honor, students must earn a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher.

Eight St. Joseph students were recently named to the fall dean's list at North Dakota State University, Fargo.

They and their majors are as follows: **Zach Blum**, environmental design; **Courtney Deters**, accounting; **Nick Gill**, sport management; **Claire Hagen**, nursing; **Alisha Halver**, pharmacy; **Callie Kostreba**, nursing; **Kendra Kuklok**, human development and family science; and **Katie Lygre**, mechanical engineering.

To be eligible for the honor, students must earn a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher

Rachel Fischer of St. Joseph was recently named to the fall dean's list at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Aidan Schiltz of St. Joseph recently graduated with a bachelor's degree in engineering technology from the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie.

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if you would like your business included. Check out the online Business Directory at thenewsleaders.com which hyperlinks to each business' website.

Jolie Olie's opening soon!

by Hayley Olson

news@thenewsleaders.com

Jolie Olie's Sweet Shoppe is coming to St. Joseph. Soon, the vacancy left behind by Sliced Pizza will have a new look. Jo Wood, otherwise known as Jolie, is owner and founder of Jolie Olie's.

Wood has always had a passion for baking and has a culinary degree from Anoka-Hennepin Technical College. But other professions kept her busy in the past. She spent 21 years as a paramedic, 16 years as a firefighter and many years as a death investigator. But through it all, Wood never lost her passion for baking.

Wood started Jolie Olie's after quitting her day job. She said she felt like she had missed so many opportunities and no longer wanted to miss a thing.

This isn't her first time in the culinary world. Wood used to

be the catering coordinator for Coborn's. In fact, you can still find Jolie Olie's scones in the Coborn's bakery today if you want to try some of Wood's creations before the bakery opens. The scones are a customer favorite and come in a variety of flavors from blueberry to lemon to chocolate.

The opening date for Jolie Olie's is set for March, with both a soft and hard opening. More details on that to come.

Currently, Wood and her family are working on readying the kitchen for production before they move on to the retail space.

Wood says this adventure is her happiness, it has never been about the money, but about her passion and the fun. She and her husband Ben feel as if this is just meant to be, given their names are Jo and Ben and they are opening in

Opening • page 5

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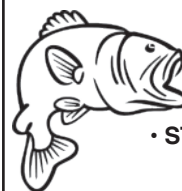
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Newsleader staff members have the responsibility to report news fairly and accurately and are accountable to the public. Readers who feel we've fallen short of these standards are urged to call the Newsleader office at 320-363-7741. If matters cannot be resolved locally, readers are encouraged to take complaints to the Minnesota News Council, an independent agency designed to improve relationships between the public and the media and resolve conflicts. The council office may be reached at 612-341-9357.

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contributed photo

Jo Wood, owner of Jolie Olie's.

Opening

from page 4

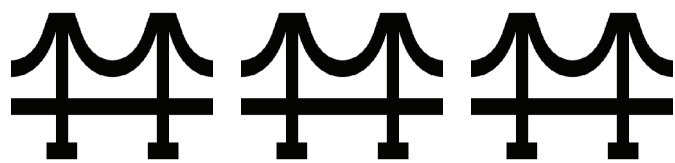
St. Joseph (Jo) and are across from the College of St. Benedict (Ben). The whole family is supportive of her adventure and has been a part of the operations, including her three kids who are 19, 17 and 16.

While everything she makes is custom ordered, you might also find some unusual treats as Wood loves to use a variety of flavors in her creations. Currently she is working on savory flavors for the scones such as sausage and peppers, and potato and chive. And you might also find some candy sculpting sweets too.

Wood says this has been her "sweetest job ever," and it's all, "for the love of sweets."

Keep your eyes peeled for the new sign in the shop that will be up in the next few weeks. For now, you can get a taste of what's to come at the Jolie Olie's website: <https://www.jolieolies.com/>

CULTURAL BRIDGES



Understanding diversity

Submitted by Cultural Bridges

Cultural Bridges sat down for an interview with Elizabeth Libbey about the importance of teaching and understanding diversity in our schools and our communities. Libbey is a junior elementary education major at the College of St. Benedict and the leader of the Resurrection Lutheran Church confirmation class.

Why should the students understand diversity?

I believe in the importance of learning about other cultures is to recognize the differences and influences within each culture, but more importantly the similarities. In high school and middle school, students tend to gravitate toward those with similar cultures as themselves, thus students miss out on the opportunity to learn about others and expand their world; therefore, incorporating "diversity" into the confirmation class was to give the students an opportunity to learn about another culture, as well as their own, and to see that everyone on the planet has the same needs and deserves the same level of respect.

How are you defining diversity? How did you introduce the topic of diversity?

We define it broadly. All the students in the class are white, so we felt it was important for the students to learn about other cultures, but additionally, the diversity within the group. We started by talking about the variety of talents within our group, and ways we build each other up with our gifts. Each week we shared one good thing and one bad thing from our week, which allowed them to see the diversity and similarities just within their class.

Why are you learning about the Somali culture?

It seemed only natural to learn more about the Somali culture since they are an integral part of our community. Resurrection Lutheran Church has a strong outreach program to the Somali community and works with Cultural Bridges on many outreach efforts, and our confirmation students have Somali students in their schools.

How have you introduced the class to the Somali culture?

Three high school/college aged Somali young women shared their culture and religion with us, and we shared our culture and religion with them. Throughout the evening, every-

one grew more comfortable asking and responding to questions and we realized our cultures and religions have many things in common. The class also visited the Mogadishu Restaurant and Store in St. Cloud. We learned about what Somalis eat by looking at the foods in the grocery store. One parent volunteer commented she was impressed and surprised by the amount and variety of grains available. Each confirmation student tried the food in the restaurant. The consensus was they liked the sambusas the best. One seventh-grader asked to take food home and she excitedly told me, "I can't wait to take the leftovers to school tomorrow for lunch!" The visit to the restaurant and guests to our class opened the eyes of the students to a new culture and foods they enjoy.

What do you want students to take away from the classes and experience regarding diversity?

We want students to understand diversity makes us a stronger and better community. We want them to be proud of their culture and to understand how their experiences to date have shaped who they are; but we want them to be accepting of other cultures and to be open to new experiences and understanding which will continue to shape who they are. We hope they have also learned how to express their opinions and views on topics which may differ from others. The discussions in the class showed we were successful. The students understanding of the Somali culture was strengthened and they understood the importance of learning about, and being accepting of other cultures, and how different cultures are what make our community stronger.

Do you have anything to add?

I visited the restaurant a few weeks before I took the class. I do not speak Somali and the employees did not speak English which led to a communication block. Immediately I felt welcomed and saw their excitement for my interest in learning their language and trying their food. It made me realize immigrants/refugees feel the same way. They come here often not knowing our language or our culture, so I grew an appreciation for the strength it takes to move to a new place and hope we welcome them as I felt welcomed.

Dean

from front page

great things in the years ahead" Colberg said. "[that's] thanks in part to the wise leadership of our current dean, Fr. Dale Launderville, OSB, as well as sponsorship by St. John's Abbey and our rich, continuing collaboration with St. Benedict's Monastery."

"Shawn Colberg brings excellent credentials as both scholar and teacher, as well as a deep commitment to our Catholic Benedictine tradition," said James Mullen, SJU transitional president. "He has an outstanding vision for the School of Theology and Seminary and will build upon the extraordinary legacy Fr. Dale has established during his tenure as dean."

Published widely in journals, Colberg recently published a book on the theologies of grace and human action in St. Bonaventure and St. Thomas Aquinas titled "The Wayfarer's End." Prior to joining the faculty at CSB and SJU, Colberg served as assistant professor for teaching and the associate chair for graduate studies in the department of theology at Notre Dame.

There are many who are excited to have him aboard.

"On behalf of the Board of Regents, I offer congratulations to Dr. Colberg in his appointment as dean of the School of Theology and Seminary," said Dennis Smid, chair of the School of Theology and Seminary Board of Regents. "The Board believes Dr. Colberg has the aptitude, attitude and leadership skills to guide the School of Theology and Seminary in

the challenging times ahead."

And from his predecessor, "Shawn Colberg is a highly regarded teacher with significant publications in the area of medieval church history," Launderville added. "His passionate commitment to the Catholic and Benedictine tradition has drawn him to administrative work in the School of Theology and Seminary. His excellent service as School of Theology and Seminary associate dean for the past three years has positioned

him well for carrying out the responsibilities of the dean. We are blessed to have him as our new leader in the summer of 2022."

Shawn Colberg is married to Kristin Colberg, associate professor of theology at CSB and SJU and the St. John's School of Theology and Seminary. They live in St. Joseph with their two daughters Mary Clare and Catherine, who are both students at St. Cloud Cathedral High School.



contributed photo

As of July 1 Shawn Colberg will begin his position as the Dean of Theology and Seminary at Saint John's University. Colberg will be taking over for Fr. Dale Launderville, OSB who has served in this position since 2015.



photo from Face Book

On Jan. 29 officers, family and friends stood on the intersection of county roads 75 and 133 to honor fallen officer Brian Klinefelter who was shot and killed in the line of duty in 1996.

A tradition of honor for fallen officer continues

by Leanne Loy
editor@thenewsleaders.com

On Jan. 29 officers from several agencies including the Sheriff's Office, along with family and friends of Officer Brian Klinefelter remembered his sacrifice by having the honor guard conduct a wreath-laying ceremony at the site of his murder.

Officer Klinefelter was

shot and killed on Jan. 29, 1996, during a traffic stop on CR 75. Two of the three suspects were apprehended and charged with first degree murder while the shooter, who was later found with a hostage, was shot and killed.

The tradition of honoring Klinefelter has reached its 26th year. It's important to remember those who have fallen in the line of duty and

a great reminder of what they and their families sacrifice for us every day.

A comment left on the Stearns County Sheriff's Office Facebook page states:

"We remember Officer Klinefelter and the sacrifice he made that day."

A moment of silence was shared between officers, family and friends.

Calendar

from page 3

Northway Drive, St. Cloud. 320-650-3082, whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us.

St. Joseph Food Shelf, 1-3 p.m., 18 Birch St. E, St. Joseph. Visit Facebook page for schedule changes and updates.

St. Joseph Senior Citizens Monthly Meeting, 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE, St. Joseph. Contact Bernie at 320-363-4355 or 320-292-5512.

Friday, Feb. 11

Chris Koza: Singer-Song-

writer. 7:30 p.m., Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 W. St. Germain, St. Cloud. Born out of folk, country, storytelling and rock 'n roll, Koza both honors and builds on Americana traditions by incorporating a unique pop-music sensibility and imaginative production choices. paramountarts.org.

Saturday, Feb. 12

Doktor-Kaboom: Wheel of Science Show. 3 p.m., Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 W. St. Germain, St. Cloud. This family fun event features optical illusions, chemical reactions, homemade hovercrafts and more! For children aged 7+. para-

mountarts.org.

Monday, Feb. 14

St. Joseph Planning Commission, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.

St. Joseph Township Board, 7 p.m., Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S., St. Joseph.

Tuesday, Feb. 15

St. Joseph Economic Development Authority, noon, Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.

St. Joseph Food Shelf, 1-3 p.m., 18 Birch St. E, St. Joseph. Visit Facebook page for schedule changes and updates.

St. Joseph Lions Club, 7

p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion 101 Fifth Ave. NW., St. Joseph.

Thursday, Feb. 17

St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 18 Birch St. E, St. Joseph. Visit Facebook page for schedule changes and updates.

Great River Energy Open House Discussion, 4-6 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Station, 323 4th Ave NE, St. Joseph. Join Great River Energy as they discuss plans for an electric power line project regarding a proposed 3.2-mile, 115-kV rebuild of an overhead transmission line. No formal presentation will be given. Attendees are en-

couraged to come anytime during the open house hours. For more information, contact Dale at daukee@grenergy.com.

Saturday, Feb. 19

Ice Fishing Contest, sponsored by the St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, noon-2:30 p.m., Kraemer Lake, St. Joseph. 28th annual ice fishing contest. Tickets: \$15 advanced (until 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18), \$20 at the lake, \$10 kids (15 & under) advanced and at the lake. More than \$4,000 in prizes! Lunch and refreshments available for purchase. 320-251-2881.



photos by Carolyn Bertsch

This award-winning photograph (above) earned Newsleader photographer Carolyn Bertsch first-place in the 2022 Better Newspaper Contest, sponsored by the Minnesota Newspaper Association. The cutline under the photo from December 2020 reads as follows: Kay Peterson, a resident of Edgewood Senior Living, Sartell, holds a framed photo to her window Dec. 15, when Santa asks, "How long has it been since we last saw each other, Kay?" (At that same photo event, Bertsch also took the photo at right) Rodney Austin of Sartell's Edgewood Senior Living receives a surprise visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus Dec. 15. The gift of holiday cheer was arranged for by Express Employment Professionals, of St. Cloud, who sponsored trips to several local assisted living facilities.

One of Newsleaders' own wins award

by Leanne Loy
editor@thenewsleaders.com

We here at the Newsleaders would like to congratulate our very own Carolyn Bertsch on her recent award. Bertsch won first place for one of her photographs from the 2022 Better Newspapers Contest from the Minnesota Newspaper Association!

The winning photo was taken on Dec. 15, 2020, when most of the world was still in lockdown due to the pandemic. The

photo shows Santa visiting a resident, Kay Peterson, of Edgewood Senior Living in Sartell from outside her window. The picture is both heartbreaking and beautiful.

Bertsch has been with the Newsleaders since 2017 as the Assignment Editor and 2015 as a freelance photographer.

We are all very proud of her for winning this prestigious award. Congratulations Carolyn! The Newsleaders is lucky to have you!



GOT A COMMENT?

Post it on our website at www.thenewsleaders.com.

A 3-Course Chocolate Meal

Chocolate is king at Valentine's Day, but it's way more than just truffles and candies.

You can make a whole meal flavored with chocolate. Let's get started.

FIRST COURSE Eggplant Caponata

Recipe is from Saveur. Serves 6-8.

Ingredients

3 cups olive oil
2 pounds Eggplant, cut into 1-inch cubes
1 large yellow onion, chopped
1 rib celery, roughly chopped
Kosher salt and black pepper to taste
3 tablespoons tomato paste, thinned with 1/4 cup water
1 cup crushed canned tomatoes
6 ounces green olives, pitted and roughly chopped
1/2 cup white wine vinegar
1/2 cup golden raisins
1/4 cup salt-packed capers, rinsed and drained
3 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons finely grated unsweetened chocolate
1/2 cup finely shredded basil
2 tablespoons pine nuts

Directions

- Heat oil in a 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Working in batches, fry eggplant until browned, about 3-4 minutes. Transfer eggplant to a large bowl and set aside.
- Pour off all but 1/4 cup oil and return skillet to heat. Add the



© ADOBE STOCK

onions and celery, season with salt and pepper and cook, stirring often, until beginning to brown or about 10 minutes. Turn heat to medium.

- Add tomato paste and stir until caramelized and almost evaporated, 1-2 minutes. Add the crushed tomatoes and cook for 10 minutes. Stir in olives, vinegar, raisins, capers, sugar and chocolate and cook, stirring occasionally, until thickened, about 15 minutes.

- Transfer to the bowl with eggplant and mix together. Check and adjust seasonings and let cool to room temperature before serving with toast points.

SECOND COURSE Steak au Poivre

Recipe is from Taste of Home. Serves 2.

Ingredients

2 5-ounce Beef tenderloin steaks, about an inch thick
2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
1 tablespoon whole white or black peppercorns, crushed
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon finely chopped shallot
1/4 cup port wine
1 tablespoon Balsamic vinegar
1/4 cup condensed beef consommé, undiluted

1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary or 1/4 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed

1/2 ounce bittersweet chocolate, chopped

Directions

- Rub steaks with a tablespoon of oil and sprinkle with peppercorns and salt. Heat 2 teaspoons of oil over medium heat. Add steaks and cook 5-7 minutes on each side or until desired doneness. Remove and keep warm.

- In the same pan, heat the rest of the oil over medium-high heat. Add the shallot and cook and stir for 1 minute or until tender. Add the

wine and vinegar, stirring to loosen browned bits from the pan. Bring to a boil and cook 2-3 minutes or until slightly thickened.

- Stir in consommé and rosemary, bring back to a boil. Add chocolate and stir until melted and sauce is thickened. Serve with steaks.

THIRD COURSE Chocolate Pots de Crème

Recipe is from the Food Network. Serves 6-8.

Ingredients

9 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped
1 1/2 cups whole milk
1 1/2 cups heavy cream
6 large egg yolks
5 tablespoons granulated sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon confectioners' sugar

Directions

- Place the chocolate in a blender.

- Whisk the milk, 1 cup cream, egg yolks, granulated sugar and salt in a heavy-bottomed medium saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture is thick enough to coat the spatula or spoon and almost boiling, about 5-6 minutes.

- Pour the milk mixture over the chocolate in the blender. Cover and hold the lid with a thick towel and blend until combined and smooth, stopping to scrape the sides as needed. Divide the chocolate mixture among ramekins or small cups and refrigerate until set, about 2 hours.

- Whip the remaining 1/2 cup cream and the confectioners' sugar with a mixer or blender until soft peaks form. Top the chilled pots de crème with whipped cream.



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TAX GUIDE | TAX PREPARATION

Why Hire a Professional?

Hiring a professional tax preparer to do your taxes can be a smart financial decision.

These professionals stay up to date on the newest tax laws and filing requirements, and you may find that being sure your taxes are done well is worth the cost.

According to the IRS, in 2020, about 80.6 million people e-filed their returns themselves, versus 72.2 million people who self prepared and e-filed.

CONSIDERATIONS

Here are some things to consider when deciding on hiring a professional.

Time. Filing your own taxes can be a time-intensive endeavor. If you own a small business, you could spend as much as 20 hours gathering receipts and other documentation and entering the information into an online platform. If you could use that time for something more important or valuable to you, choose a paid preparer.

Money. The National Society of Tax Professionals says the average fee for preparing Form 1040 is \$203, and preparers who charge by the hour typically charge \$138 per hour. What you get in exchange for the money you spend on your return is the next item on our list.

Peace of mind. When you

pay someone to prepare your taxes, you are responsible for providing accurate information. Your preparer will do the work of checking for deductions, credits and other tax programs you might qualify for, as well as filing your taxes properly and timely. If you're afraid you will second-guess the accuracy of your filing if you do it yourself, it might be worth the money to hire a pro. Some

paid services even offer help if you're audited or otherwise contacted by the IRS about your return.

Complexity. If you are a high earner, have multiple sources of income, investments, charitable contributions and other complicated tax situations, hiring a professional might be a good idea. Knowing the specifics of the tax law is critical in filing a complex return.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Business Insider suggests hiring a tax attorney, a certified public accountant or an IRS enrolled agent to prepare your returns.

Visit the National Association of Tax Professionals' website at www.natptax.com to find a qualified preparer.

You can also visit the Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with

Credentials and Select Qualifications at irs.treasury.gov/rpo/rpo.jsf.

The IRS recommends making sure your preparer has a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN) issued by the agency.

These are the only professionals who can represent you in front of the IRS if you are audited, or have issues with payments or collections.



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Blotter

If you have a tip concerning a crime, call the St. Joseph Police Department at 320-363-8250 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 320-255-1301 or access its tip site at tricontyccrimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.

Jan. 11

2:44 p.m. Fraud. Hickory Court. The complainant came to St. Joseph Police Department to report a fraud. On Nov. 15, the complainant received a priority USPS package from a Lili Neumann from Santa Ana, California. The package contained two checks, each \$4,700 to the complainant. No letter and no information was included. The complainant suspected fraud and verified the checks and business name on the checks were fake. The complainant is not out any money but wanted the incident documented. The checks and package were scanned and destroyed.

Jan. 12

8:48 a.m. Vehicle in ditch. CR 3/CR 75. While on patrol, an officer located a vehicle in the ditch at county roads 3 and 75. The officer spoke with the driver who said he was eastbound on CR 75 and lost control on an icy area. Another motorist who was

driving a truck pulled the vehicle out of the ditch. Driver advised he didn't need a crash report as he thought there was no new damage. The officer stood by until both lanes were open.

Jan. 13

10:17 p.m. Medical. College Avenue S. While on a medical at St. Ben's, life safety approached the officer with concerns of a student. The student was intoxicated and blew a .24 on the preliminary breath test. They were concerned she couldn't take care of herself. The officer spoke with the student identified who was able to talk to the officer and handle day-to-day tasks. The officer informed the life safety that she was able to care for herself and they would not be able to bring her to detox. Student was already in her dorm room when the officer spoke with her.

Jan. 15

11:16 p.m. Abandoned vehicle. CR 75 W. While on patrol, an officer noticed a vehicle parked in the Mill Stream Park. The vehicle was unoccupied, and the inside of the vehicle was filled with discs for disc golfing. Footprints led from the vehicle to the course. The officer checked the area of the park and had negative contact. Officer checked the park throughout the night, nothing further.

Jan. 16

5:59 p.m. Domestic. 20th Avenue SE. Officers were dispatched to a domestic. The female victim said a male suspect was yelling at her and had raised an arm in the air with a closed fist like he was going to hit her. Victim said suspect left the scene in a gray Chevy suburban prior to officer's arrival. The officer took a statement from victim about the incident. Another officer responded to the domestic. An officer had arrived prior to that and said the male had left the scene prior to the officer's arrival. Officer was advised to get a statement from the female while the other officer went in and attempted to look at the video at Kwik Trip, where the incident took place. Officer met with assistant manager who said camera footage would not show anything from where they were parked. However, assistant manager said he was outside when this all happened and the officer took a recorded statement from him.

Jan. 17

11:29 a.m. Verbal. Iverson Street W. Officers were dispatched to a verbal. A unidentified male called saying there was a lot of yelling and pounding coming from this unit. Two officers responded. One officer did not hear anything when they walked up to the door before

knocking. A child came to the door before peeking through the window. Tenant answered the door and stated she was feeding the kids breakfast and they were jumping around and being loud. She said there was no issues in the home. Officer observed two children peaking around the door by tenant. No issues were seen or heard.

Jan. 20

11:34 a.m. Wallet located. College Avenue S/Baker Street E. City public works staff located a wallet at the crosswalk to St. Ben's campus just north of Baker Street E on College Avenue S. The maroon wallet appeared to have been run over. Inside were three small keys and two larger keys. Also inside was a student ID. Officer called St. Ben's security who notified the student to come pick up the wallet.

Jan. 22

10 a.m. Crash. College Avenue N/CR 75. Officer was dispatched to a crash. Officer responded and met with individuals involved. Officer learned that vehicle one had been traveling eastbound on CR 75 and was stopped at a red light at College Avenue N. Vehicle one was stopped in the left lane. Vehicle two was coming up behind vehicle one and attempted to brake. Vehicle two started sliding on

the snow and ice-packed roads. Vehicle two ended up hitting the back of vehicle one. The driver of vehicle two estimated he was going 5-6 mph. No injuries. Pictures were taken and accident information was shared.

Jan. 23

6:28 p.m. Crash. I-94/ Hwy 23. Officer was dispatched for a crash that occurred in the eastbound lanes of Highway 23 on the overpass of I-94. Officer responded and upon arrival observed a vehicle was facing westbound in the eastbound lanes. The driver of the first vehicle said he was driving in the left lane when he felt his tire start pulling to the left. He said he struck the left guard rail, lost control, hit another vehicle and then struck the right barrier. Driver of the second vehicle said she was in the right lane next to first vehicle when he lost control; she stated first vehicle had tapped hers. There was minimal damage to second vehicle. First vehicle had severe damage. Officers collected driver and insurance info from both drivers. A witness said he was behind both vehicles and saw first vehicle lose control, hitting the left barrier, then hitting second vehicle before first vehicle hit the right barrier. Andy's Towing towed first vehicle due to the damage.

Jobs

from front page

rooms, taking on other students and sometimes an entire additional classroom to cover for other teachers. Substitute teachers are in demand but there are never enough. Staff from district 742 stated "the changes and inconsistencies in staffing and schedules is throw-

ing off kids, causing many of them to act out." Another staff from district 742 stated that there is fear in needing to take a day, as they are not sure if their room will be covered or who will be pulled to help.

In some instances, paraprofessionals are shifted around, leaving some students or classrooms without support. Paraprofessionals are an integral part of educational staff, and more paraprofessionals are

needed. They are vital to education, providing necessary services to all students, especially those in special education programming. Paraprofessionals are the key to success for many students.

Education, as an institution and a functioning place of learning, cannot continue without staff in the buildings. Around the country there are states that have changed their requirements for teachers; New

Mexico going as far as to call in the National Guard. Some states are now requiring only a high school diploma to be a teacher. The Minnesota Department of Education requires a four-year degree in education, a student teaching program, and passing scores on board certification to be a teacher. In Minnesota, those aiming to be substitute teachers need a four-year degree of any kind.

Educators are bending over

backwards to meet the needs of students and families. Educators across the state are stepping into a world outside their normal jobs to ensure students are getting what they need in and out of school. If you have the time, please reach out to your local district, and see how you can support them. If you want to join any of these fabulous teams please reach out to St. Cloud school district's human resources at isd742.org.

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Opinion

Our View

Teachers' value should not be easily dismissed

Our schools have been mostly back in person with a few virtual learning days here and there. However, other states are only now easing back into classrooms. This should be an exciting time for not just the students but the teachers as well. However, the comments people are leaving on social media pages would make any teacher, no matter how dedicated they are, want to throw their hands in the air and say, "I give up."

Comments like,

"Good, it's about time teachers go back to work."

"Finally, teachers will actually have to work for their paychecks."

"I guess the break is over for teachers."

For the last two years we have been in the midst of this horrible pandemic and our teachers have really gotten a bad rap. Comments about how nice it must be for them to be able to work from home are not only hurtful, but ignorant.

You would think after two years of this people would finally see how valuable our teachers are. They do not want to teach from their homes. Ask almost any teacher and they will tell you in-class learning is much more valuable. The only reason they accept working from home in these times is to keep themselves and their families safe and protected. Who wouldn't want that?

The adjustments they have had to make during the last two years have also added stress and uncertainty in their lives. Having to create online lesson plans at the drop of a hat when they are surprised with an unexpected virtual learning day, knowing a lot of their students don't do well with at-home lessons and trying to accommodate for each individual student does not sound like a no-stress situation. But they do it. They show up each and every day because they didn't take this job for the money, they took this job because, regardless of what people might think, they do care deeply for their students and want to see them succeed.

Teachers are some of the hardest working, passionate human beings we have and yet it has become so easy for people to dismiss them and make ignorant comments about how they get too much vacation and are paid too much. Those teachers deserve and need those summers off, most of them are still doing lesson plans and getting their rooms ready for the next year during that "vacation."

The job has changed quite a lot throughout the years; maybe people don't realize that. It would be surprising, though, if that's the case considering we parents were home with our children for nearly an entire year. That alone should have been eye-opening to us.

We need to remember teachers are human beings and much like our heroes in the medical field, they need our praise and patience too. But more than that, they need our support. Just imagine how it would change our kids' lives if we actually gave our teachers the support and patience they need, instead of putting them down in these difficult times.

Letters policy

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or mailed to 1622 11th Ave. S.E., St. Cloud, MN 56304. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space or to not publish.

Two DINO's helped throttle voting access

We often hear about RINOs (Republicans in Name Only). How about DINO's (Democrats in Name Only)? They, too, exist, like those two book-end obstructionists Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona.

On Jan. 22, that duo had the brazen gall to vote against the Freedom to Vote Act, along with all 50 Senate Republicans. Oh sure, Sinema and Manchin claimed (most unconvincingly) they were only voting to protect the Senate filibuster. But of course they knew their votes for filibuster would sink the voting-rights bill – at least for now.

The filibuster requires a majority of 60 senators (not 51 of 100) to pass legislation. The filibuster, which is not even mentioned in the U.S. Constitution, was cooked up years ago, used as a way to block or kill legislation, especially during the Civil Rights Era. In recent years, the filibuster has become a tactic by which a minority party can prevent landmark bills from being approved.

What happened on Jan. 22 is this: There was a proposal to drop the filibuster temporarily, dubbed a "carve-out," just so the Freedom to Vote Act would have a chance of passing. That could have occurred if those devious spoilsports, Manchin and Sinema, had voted to drop the filibuster. The Senate would have split 50-50 strictly along party lines, and Vice President Kamala Harris would have cast the deciding vote, making the tally 51-50 for a squeak-through victory.

Wordle entertainment is for everyone

A few weeks ago, I started noticing an interesting trend on social media. People were posting a grid of squares, colored green, yellow and gray. I was intrigued; I knew it was some kind of word game, but I wasn't exactly sure how it worked. Finally, after seeing this for a couple weeks, I decided to try it myself, and I was hooked. This was, of course, the word game that has been taking the world by storm, Wordle.

So what is this game, and why has it become so popular? Wordle is essentially a word-guessing game. Every day there is a new word to guess, and no matter where you are in the world everyone is attempting to guess the same one. That's what makes sharing and talking about it so fun. And with only one word per day, you have to keep coming back to keep playing.

Josh Wardle, a software engineer from Brooklyn, originally created the game as something for him and his domestic partner to play. However, once their relatives started to really enjoy playing it as well, he made it publicly available in October of last year. Later on, he added the feature where you can share your grid results, and the game became a viral phenomenon.

To play Wordle, you just need to utilize your knowledge of five-letter

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



The filibuster "rule" has been dropped many times for any number of reasons and/or excuses to approve this or that bill or confirmation. If Sinema and Manchin had truly believed strongly in the Freedom to Vote Act, they would have voted immediately to forego the filibuster, then vote for the bill. They ought to be ashamed because it certainly appears they used their dearly beloved filibuster as an excuse for putting the kibosh on voting rights. It was one of the most shameful days in Senate history and does not bode well for the future, when Senate minorities will block or kill important legislation favored by a majority of Americans, like the Freedom to Vote Act.

Our Democracy is in mortal danger. Just last year, 34 voting-suppression laws were approved by Republican legislatures in 19 states. Of course, they dare not call them suppression bills (oh no!); instead, they claim the laws will protect the integrity of the voting process by making "massive voter fraud" impossible – you know, the "massive voting fraud" they falsely, stubbornly keep claiming "stole" the election from Trump.

In fact, those new voting laws will limit, discourage or prevent access to

the polls by many Black Americans, Latinos and others – the ones who tend to favor Democrats. Those onerous laws are termites chewing away at the foundation of Democracy – that foundation being the right of every American citizen to cast a free and fair vote in an election.

These laws limit the time for early voting, move voting places far from minority neighborhoods, purge the names of voters from registration lists for flimsy reasons, limit or ban mail-in voting, greatly decrease or get rid of ballot drop boxes and even (in Georgia) make it illegal for someone to bring food or water to voters waiting in line for hours at voting places. Some states have even passed laws that give state officials authority over the procedures of county election workers.

Another scheme is to sway elections via gerrymandering, the unfair skewing of legislative-district borders to favor one political party over another.

The Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Act would stop the most blatant voting-suppression laws and set standards to ensure the flourishing of genuine free-and-fair Democracy. Who with a good patriotic conscience could oppose such protective bills?

Well, on Jan. 22, that is exactly what 50 Republicans and two rogue Democrats did. They used the filibuster rule as an excuse to keep themselves in perpetual power.

Connor Kockler
Guest writer



words. Wordle picks a word each day from a list of about 2,000 words out of the 12,000 five-letter words in the English language. When you start playing, you're faced with an empty grid and a list of letters, giving you six tries to figure out the word of the day. Each time you guess a word, the game either makes letter tiles green, yellow or gray. A green tile means the letter guessed is in the correct word and in the correct spot. A yellow tile means the letter is in the word but in the wrong spot. And a gray tile means the letter is not in the word.

While you would think it would be easy to guess a five-letter word, especially with the game giving you hints with the tiles, it can actually turn out to be quite challenging. Sometimes you might guess several words without even finding one correct letter. Or you might get some green and yellow tiles but then have no idea how to put the whole word together. But after some thinking and troubleshooting, it's really satisfying to get those five green tiles in a row, indicating you guessed the correct word.

The part of Wordle I find the most entertaining though is the social aspect. Once I started playing, I quickly introduced it to my sister, mom and dad, as well as my grandparents. We all enjoy playing Wordle at some free point during the day and letting everyone know how well we did. It can be a fun competition among us all to see how few tries each of us needed to figure out the word of the day. Especially when I'm at college, it's a nice way to keep in touch with everyone and start up conversations.

So if you are looking for a fun way to challenge yourself and also build some more connection and competition with family and friends, I would recommend Wordle. You can find it at www.powerlanguage.co.uk/wordle. It just takes a few minutes a day, since you only have one word to guess, so it is great if you don't have much time. The mental exercise of finding letters and figuring out how to put together the word is also very satisfying. Plus, having that sense of accomplishment about being the best in your group at that day's word is a great boost for some bragging rights. So give it a try, just don't say I didn't warn you about it being addictive.

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

Have an opinion? Share it: news@thenewsleaders.com

ALL ABOUT DOGS | A NEW FAMILY MEMBER

Adopting a Shelter Dog

Rescuing a dog from a local animal shelter is probably one of the most fulfilling things you can do.

There are some things to bear in mind, however, including local rules and ordinances, behavior and food problems, and health. Keep reading to learn more about adopting a shelter dog.

GET TO KNOW YOUR SHELTER

Many local shelters have specific rules and policies about who can adopt from them and when. They may also have conditions regarding how the dog is kept. For instance, many shelters won't allow an adopted dog to live outside. They may also require vet checks, home visits and a fenced yard, among other things. Before you start perusing animals, make sure you know the shelter's policies so you aren't surprised.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Once you understand the shelter policies, it's time to prepare for bringing a new dog home. Find a place for your dog to call home base. It should be big enough for a bed or kennel, and you should have it set up before he comes home. Dog proof the area by removing anything the dog could chew on, removing breakable objects and setting up baby gates to help confine

him to his new space. If you have other animals, this space should be one where you can easily confine the newcomer.

You also should have everything you're going to need for your new friend before you bring him home. Consider getting a collar and leash, along with an ID tag, bowls for food and water, a feeding

mat, toys, a bed and a kennel or crate.

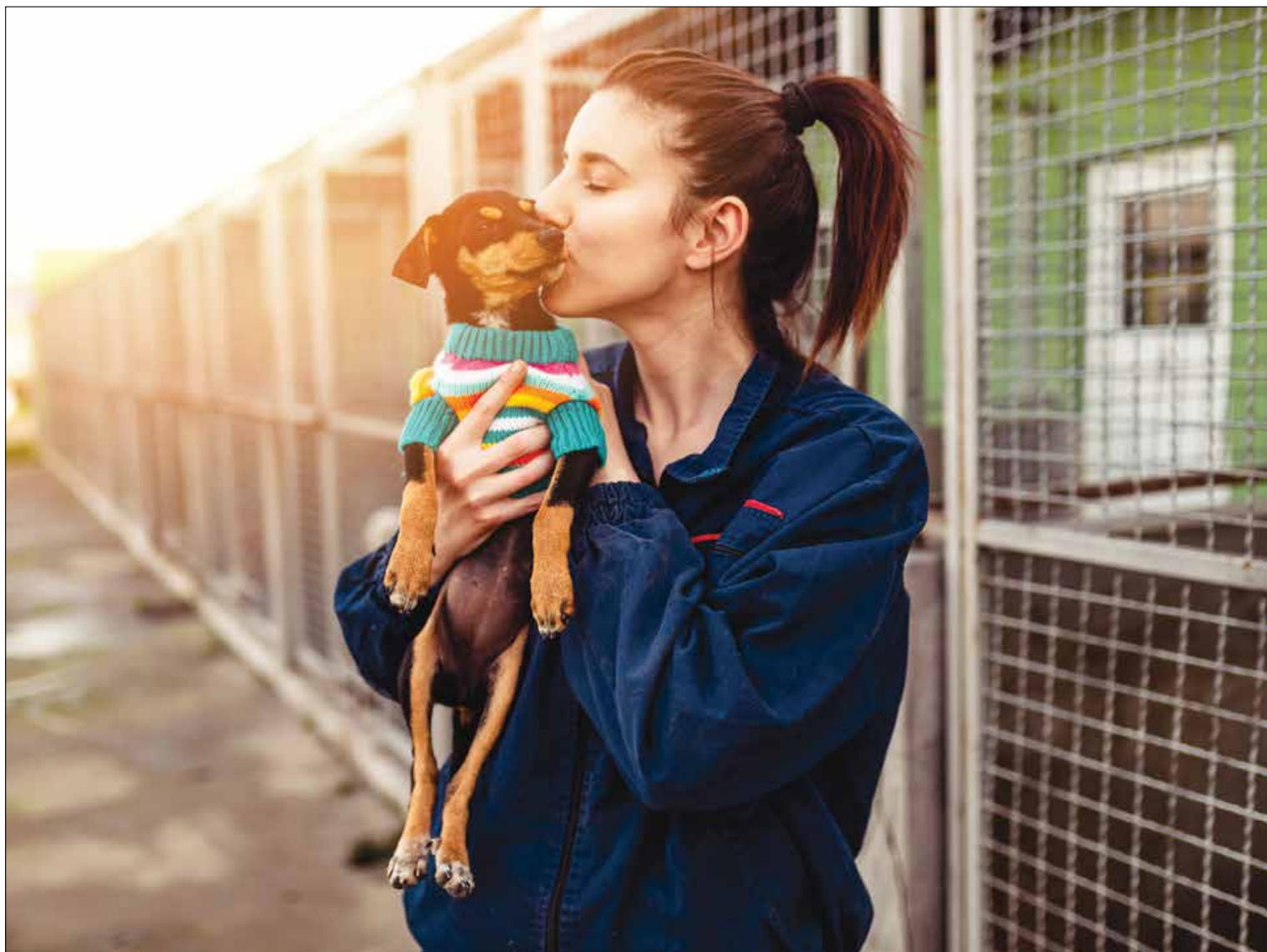
COMING HOME

Now that you're all set up, it's time to bring home your new friend. Once you get the dog home, expect it to be nervous. Try to establish a routine and stick to it. This is important for helping your

dog settle into its new home. A shelter dog may not be housetrained or may have forgotten housetraining during his stay at the shelter, so be prepared to start housetraining as soon as you get home. Try to stay calm and quiet around the new dog and only give him attention for good behavior.

Remember, it's going to take several weeks for your shelter dog to open up. He may sleep a lot and may even act out as he settles in. Stay calm and consistent and stick to your routine as much as you can.

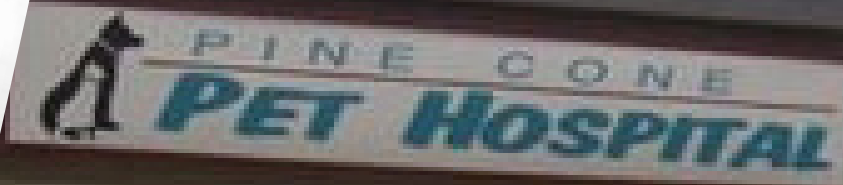
With a little patience and a lot of love, you'll have a new friend for life.



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Taxation 101



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We all know the saying frequently attributed to Benjamin Franklin: There are two constants in life — death and taxes.

Of these two, taxes are easily the most complicated and, if some people are to be believed, sometimes cause the death (usually by paperwork).

Keep reading to learn more about taxes, who pays them and what they're used for.

TYPES OF TAXES

Taxes typically fall into one of three categories, the Tax Foundation says: taxes on what you earn, taxes on what you buy and taxes on what you own. All taxes start out as a dollar you've earned as income, but the difference is when you pay it.

TAXES ON WHAT YOU EARN

Income taxes are levied on the wages you or your household earn. Many income taxes are progressive, meaning tax rates increase as income increases.

Higher earners will then pay a larger share of income taxes than those who earn less. Corporate income taxes are levied on business profits, or a business's revenues minus the costs of doing business.

Payroll taxes are paid on the wages and salaries of

employees to finance social insurance programs, such as Social Security and Medicare.

TAXES ON WHAT YOU BUY

Sales taxes are levied on goods and services at the point of purchase. You've probably seen a sales tax tally on your receipt at the grocery

store. The United States., the Tax Foundation says, is one of the few industrialized countries that still relies on traditional sales taxes as a significant portion of state and local revenue.

TAXES ON WHAT YOU OWN

Property taxes are one of

the most common forms of taxation of things you own. They are levied on immovable property like land and buildings and are a key source of revenue for state and local governments, accounting for more than 30 percent of total local tax collections. Property tax revenue funds public services such as schools,

roads and public safety programs.

Tangible personal property taxes are levied on things that can be moved or touched. Some of these things include business equipment, machinery, inventory, furniture and cars. These make up a small share of state and local tax collections, the Tax Foundation says.

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