

Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader

Friday, Feb. 2, 2018
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Est. 1995

Town Crier

St. Ben's hosts Girls, Women in Sports Day

The College of St. Benedict will host a celebration for National Girls and Women in Sports Day at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10. The community is invited to join us for this celebration and the CSB basketball game vs. Augsburg. The 2018 Breaking Barriers Award honoree, Carol Agnes, will be honored at half-time along with a performance by the CSB dance team. Agnes was the first athletic director at St. Ben's, as well as the first volleyball and basketball coach. All girls and women wearing a sports jersey will receive free admission to this event.

Sartell winter market to be held Saturday

The Sartell winter farmers' market will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 and March 3 inside Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N. Get ready for the big game. Items available this weekend include the following: football-themed desserts, bread bowls, popcorn, chicken wings, beef for barbecue, steak, eggs and much more. Come check out the items not available anywhere else.

Hands Across World seeks computer aides

Hands Across the World is looking for volunteers as computer classroom assistants. Volunteers will aid in a classroom with simple tasks such as working one-on-one with students, handing out assignments or assisting the teacher. Volunteers will work with the teacher to develop a plan. For more information, visit thenewsleaders.com and click on Feb. 2 Criers.

Country Manor looking for visitors

Country Manor is looking for friendly visitors for their residents. Develop a special friendship with a resident or multiple residents in our Care Center. Visit with them on a regular basis. Help the residents maintain or regain a positive self-image. Chat about everyday affairs, write letters, play games, encourage participation in activities, take them outside, to see the bird aviary or duck pond. Take some time to listen to a piece of their history and life experiences. For more information on this and other United Way volunteer opportunities, visit thenewsleaders.com.ww

INSERTS:
City of St. Stephen
Good To Go

Lathe wins Daily Double – a trip to Disney World

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

An energetic, loud, rambunctious pep rally at Sartell Middle School Jan. 26 suddenly morphed into a big win for fifth-grader Sophie Lathe. Lathe was one of four students chosen to participate in a Disney-themed version of the TV game show *Jeopardy*. On the gym floor, in front of hundreds of cheering peers, the four students looked up at the big Jeopardy projection screen, picked their categories and gave their guesses. When it was Lathe's turn, she chose "Star Wars for \$100" for her category when the clang-clanging sound of the "Daily Double" filled the gym. The students in the bleachers

erupted in an ear-splitting roar of cheering and stamping as the Jeopardy screen began to show photos of Sophie and as someone rushed over to place Mickey Mouse ears on Sophie's head. Just then, words on the screen announced, "Congratulations, Sophie! You're going to Disney World!" The students cheered so loudly, it sounded like a dozen thunderstorms. Stunned, Lathe, sitting in her wheelchair, put her hands over her face and then smiled like sunshine. Her parents and three siblings (dressed in brown Jedi warrior robes) hurried across the gym to congratulate her. Lathe's Make-a-Wish had been granted: a trip to Disney World for her and her family. Lathe • page 4

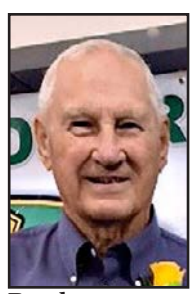


photo by Dennis Dalman
Sophie Lathe (foreground) claps along with a Sartell Sabres' chant during a pep rally Jan. 26 at Sartell Middle School. Minutes later, the focus of the rally turned to a much-surprised Lathe, who was honored with a trip to Disney World through the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Reedstrom proud, happy to be in Hall of Fame

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

It's a rare honor for somebody at the age of 85 to be inducted into a Hall of Fame, but that's what happened to Don Reedstrom of Sartell. He is now one of 33 former athletes inducted into the Sauk Rapids High School Storm Athletic Hall of Fame since 2012 when the honorary program began.



Reedstrom

At the induction ceremony were Reedstrom's wife, Marcia; children; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and scores of friends old and new. Marcia had been a nurse before becoming a stay-at-home mom. "I was extremely proud and extremely happy to get that award," he said. He is especially proud because two of his childhood heroes and mentors are also in the Sauk Rapids Hall of Fame – Don Wichman, Hall of Fame, 2013; and Eldon "Rip" Repulski, Hall of Fame, 2012. Back in the 1940s, those two lived in the same neighborhood, along with Reedstrom, and Reedstrom looked up to the older boys, emulating them, learning from them, sharing their unquenchable love of sports and competition. The other honorees, along with Reedstrom, were softball/basketball coach-and-teacher Ben Miller; Pam (Raetz) Benoit, swimmer, Class of 1990; and Heidi (Mohs) Landwehr, swimmer, Class of 1989, who was an assistant girls' basketball coach in Sartell for two years. Reedstrom grew up in Sauk Rapids, the son of Martha (Rogosheski) and Charles Reedstrom. He graduated from that city's high school in 1950. He was a stand-out athlete (nickname Reed) in four sports – football, basketball, track and baseball. He was a three-time letter-winner in football, serving as running back and defensive back. He had a record of 17 wins, two losses and two ties. In both football and basketball, he was named to the Central Gopher All-Conference Team. In basketball, Reedstrom became a dominant center, finishing in second place. Reedstrom • page 5

Local volunteers gear up for Super Bowl LII



contributed photo
Crew 52 volunteers include (from left) Michael Hemmesch, Sartell, Diane Hageman and Mac Cariveau.

by Vicki Ikeogu
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um in Super Bowl LII. A special volunteer force has been suiting up to help welcome out-of-town visitors since Jan. 26. Among the 10,000 volunteers are 10 individuals from Sartell and four people from St. Joseph. Dubbed Crew 52, these volunteers, primarily from Minnesota, signed up to work in various sections surrounding the Super Bowl festivities. "During the 10-day Super Bowl festivities we anticipate about one million visitors," said Michael Howard, communications director with the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee. "And the key element to make everything run smoothly will be the 10,000 volunteers we have recruited to be the welcoming Minnesota face to help direct folks around the city." "I think I probably saw (the call for volunteers) on Facebook or in the news," said Joanne Schneider of St. Joseph. "It doesn't happen all the time and I do like exciting stuff." Schneider applied to be part of Crew 52 late last summer. While she has never been a volunteer for an event on this scale, some of her close friends and family members have. "My sister had volunteered for the Olympics in Atlanta," she said. "And I've known other people who have volunteered for like the Masters and different golf tournaments and stuff like that. And they always seem to have fun. So (volunteering for the Super Bowl) sounded fun." For Sartell resident Michael Hemmesch, being a part of the Super Bowl LII experience was an easy decision. "I periodically checked the Minnesota Super Bowl Host Committee website," he said. "And when I saw the chance to volunteer, I thought it would be a cool opportunity." Hemmesch volunteered at other national sporting events and had an idea of what potential volunteers would be required to do. "I didn't have any hesitation," he said. "This is clearly the highest profile and biggest sporting event. Super Bowl • page 2

Super Bowl

from front page

Because of the fact this was the second time the Super Bowl has been hosted in Minnesota, I viewed it as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

That feeling was shared among the approximately 30,000 applicants who signed up to be Crew 52 volunteers, Howard said.

“Within the first 48 hours of opening up the application process back in March we had about 9,000 people sign up,” he said.

Once the application period closed, the Super Bowl Host Committee narrowed the selection down to the top 15,000 applicants. Each of those potential volunteers was called to the cities for an interview.

“They primarily asked you about how well you were with people, what you knew about Minnesota and things like that,” said Jill Sieben, a volunteer from Sartell. “They obviously want people to come back to the state after the Super Bowl is finished.”

Volunteering comes easy to Sieben. She volunteered during Hurricane Katrina and through organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters.

“If I can volunteer every day before the Super Bowl it would be my cup of tea,” she said.

The interviews narrowed the pool of applicants to the final 10,000.

“Each volunteer is asked to fill three shifts during the 10-day stretch,” Howard said. “There are a couple of different jobs throughout the festival.”

Those jobs include airport greeters, assisting with the live concerts and entertainment on Nicollet Mall as part of Super Bowl Live and helping guests navigate the various skyways and hotels throughout the Twin Cities.

Schneider opted to work the Super Bowl Live concert series.

“I wanted to be in the middle of the action,” she said.

Hemmesch also elected to pick up shifts on Nicollet Mall. Sieben opted for skyway duty.

Each volunteer received Crew 52 gear including the signature purple Bold North mittens to make them

easily identifiable to the general public.

“Overall our Crew 52 volunteers will be very engaged,” he said. “So many of them are taking an active role.”

Several training sessions during early January prepared the volunteers for their roles and answered any questions. The Super Bowl Host Committee even put together a private Facebook group to help the Crew 52 members connect.

“We’ve got volunteers from all across the state,” Howard said. “From (more than) 500 cities and townships. We also have about 10 percent of our volunteers coming from states like Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota. And there will also be some volunteers from Atlanta, the host of Super Bowl LIII, who will be getting a sense of what hosting a Super Bowl will be like.”

Throughout the 10-day festivities leading up to the big game, volunteers will be swarming the Twin Cities, serving as ambassadors for the state.

It will be an experience they won’t soon forget.

“I think people are really surprised this is more than just a football game,” Hemmesch said. “It’s really a celebration. It’s a time to showcase Minnesota on a national and even an international stage. By volunteering with Crew 52 it’s a nice way to give back to the state. It feels like a great honor and I’m excited. It’s going to be a great time.”

Sartell volunteers are: Mary Hoover, Nickolas Hoover, Hemmesch, Christine Ostlund, Lynne Janson, Kevin Kruse, Julie Meyer, Sieben, Abby Spanier and Timothy Tinius.

St. Joseph volunteers are: Candyce Thompson, Richard Schultz, Kenneth Twit and Schneider.

Council considers park amenities

by Dennis Dalman
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A pedestrian bridge was at the center of a Jan. 8 Sartell City Council discussion about improvements at Sauk River Regional Park.

The city has about \$950,000 in state grant money to spend for improvements and amenities at that park, which is north of CR 120 across from the Epic Center mall area.

Sartell Planner Developer Anita Archambeau outlined options the council could consider. City staff needs council direction so planners can know which projects are preferred and then specifics and costs can be prepared.

One of the options is a pedestrian bridge that would join the west and the east areas of the park across the Sauk River. A consensus developed among council members that although the bridge might be a useful amenity, it’s just too expensive. The bridge would cost an estimated \$730,000, which would leave only about \$220,000 for the other options. Even those not keen about a pedestrian bridge said they would not rule it out yet.

Council members seemed to favor spending the funds on practical improvements in the park: trail improvements, developments and expansions; signage; and some form of restroom facility.

Several council members noted there is no public clamber to have a pedestrian bridge built.

All council members agreed they should take a walking tour of the park as soon as the weather warms up. Archambeau noted in the meantime staff can prepare some plans with the bridge added and without the bridge added. The lion’s share of the funds now in the city’s possession must be used by 2020 and can only be used for that specific park, Archambeau said.

Archambeau outlined the following options:

- A trailhead restroom, with or without utilities. Council members seemed to favor a rustic structure that would be a compost-style restroom. Cost: with utilities, about \$140,000; without utilities, \$50,000.
- Trailhead park shelter with storage capacity and overhang over picnic tables. About \$240,000.
- An overlook deck on a bluff in the park. About \$224,000.
- A trailhood shelter with the bluff overlook. About \$500,000.
- An earthen amphitheater. About \$280,000.
- Small internal shelters, rather like bus-stop shelters. From \$2,000 to \$10,000.
- Beach improvements on one part of the Sauk River bank. About \$50,000.
- Trail improvements and extensions for walking and skiing. Cost depends on the extent of the trail system.
- Kiosks and informational signs. Anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
- Directional signage. About \$15,000.
- Purchase additional property next to the park. Between \$233,000 to \$400,000.

Sartell Swarm

Registration for 2018 Summer Season opens Feb. 12

Girls ages 6-18 fastpitch softball

For more information and to register, go to www.sartellfastpitch.com.

Updates about our program will be shared at the annual parent meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12 at the SHS Auditorium.

Parents and players are encouraged to attend.

Uniform sizes will be available for those who are interested.

Contact Becky Lundgren
with registration questions at
beckylundgren@sartellfastpitch.com



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Blotter

In Business

If any readers have tips concerning crimes, they should call the Sartell Police Department at 251-8186 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 255-1301 or access its tip site at www.tricountycrimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for crimes.

Jan. 17
11:41 p.m. Traffic stop. Benton Drive and Second Street North. While patrolling the east side, an officer observed a vehicle pass by. The officer observed a suspended object dangling from the rearview mirror. The officer initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle. During the stop, the officer smelled marijuana. While searching the vehicle search the officer found a small baggie containing marijuana and a pipe. The driver was cited for possession and released.

Jan. 18
4:08 p.m. Traffic Stop. CR 33 and Minnesota Highway 15. While on patrol an officer observed a vehicle traveling in reverse at CR 1 and Highway 15. The officer initiated a stop. The driver game the officer an expired insurance card. The officer also ran the driver and discovered she was revoked. While speaking with the female driver, the officer detected an odor of unburned marijuana. The officer explained this observation to the driver and

People
Emily Johnson of Sartell was named to the fall semester dean’s list at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

Four Sartell students have been named to the dean’s list at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for fall semester. The students are **Elizabeth Botz**, business; **Kelsey Frank**, education and human sciences; **Nicole Lindmeier**, education and human sciences; and **Emma Zenzen**, education and human sciences.

Aidan Speckhard of Sartell has been accepted for admission to Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, for the 2018-19 academic year. Speckhard has been awarded the Founders Scholarship.

asked if there was anything in the vehicle. The driver stated there was not. The officer searched the vehicle and in the center console found a cigarette pack containing a green leafy substance. The officer field tested the substance and confirmed it was marijuana. The woman was cited for possession, no insurance and driving while suspended. The vehicle was released to a valid driver.

Jan. 19
8:18 a.m. Medical. Le Sauk Township. An officer was dispatched to aid a woman who had fallen and hit her head. Upon arrival the officer found the patient outside. Gold Cross arrived and transported the woman to St. Cloud Hospital.

Jan. 20
3:09 a.m. Suspicious persons. Heritage Drive. While on patrol an officer observed three people dressed in light clothing. Because of recent burglaries in the area, the officer tried to contact the people. As the officer turned around, he observed two of people run toward a residence and they were behind the residence before the officer was able to exit his squad. The officer spoke with the third party that didn’t run. The boy stated he and his friends were walking to another friend’s house. He was unsure why his friends ran. The officer contacted the other two juveniles. The officer met with the mother of one

of them. The juveniles said they ran because they were scared. The officer educated them on why it is not a good idea to run from the police. They were also warned for violating curfew.

Jan. 21
1:41 a.m. Open door. Second Street South. While routinely checking to make sure businesses in the city were secure, an officer found an unlocked door. The officer called backup to assist and then cleared the building. No one was found inside and everything appeared in order. The officer contacted a key holder, who arrived on scene and secured the door.

2:31 p.m. Medical. Seventh Street North and Seventh Avenue North. While on patrol on Seventh Street North, an officer observed a girl next to a bike on the walking path. The officer observed that the girl was holding her chest and appeared to be having a hard time breathing. The officer stopped and spoke with the child. The girl stated she believed she was having an asthma attack. The officer provided high-flow oxygen and radioed for paramedics. Gold Cross arrived on scene and took over care.

Jan. 22
6:14 p.m. DWI. Pinecone Road South. Officers were dispatched to a business for a report of an intoxicated man who was disturbing customers. Officers arrived on scene and met with the

man and store employees. The man smelled strongly of alcohol and had difficulties standing without swaying. The man was evasive with officers but eventually admitted to driving to the store. Officers performed field sobriety testing and the man was unable to pass any tests. The man was placed under arrest and charged with third-degree driving while intoxicated. He was transported to the Stearns County Jail without incident.

Jan. 23
12:49 a.m. Assist person. Tenth Avenue North. An officer was dispatched for a report of a woman who was stuck in an elevator. The officer arrived and contacted the woman through an intercom to ensure she was okay. The officer then was able to reset the elevator power switch and the door opened allowing the woman out.

5:38 p.m. DWI. Third Street South. Officers were dispatched to a driving complaint in the 400 block of Third Street South. Officers located the vehicle in an open garage under an apartment complex. Officers observed a female driver exit the vehicle and attempted to make contact. While speaking with officers the woman showed obvious signs of impairment. Officers ran the woman through field sobriety testing. The woman was placed under arrest and charged with third-degree driving while intoxicated.

WACOSA announced it is the recipient of a \$2,500 grant from The Initiative Foundation. The dollars will fund a collaborative effort between WACOSA and True Friends to provide a unique, customized training experience that focuses on enhancing leadership skills and equipping new leaders. The program includes WACOSA clients, who are individuals with disabilities, and are often not offered the same opportunities to develop leadership skills.

WACOSA, established in 1963, serves more than 625 adults with disabilities in central Minnesota with sites in Waite Park, St. Cloud and Sauk Centre.

People
Three students have been named to the dean’s list at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for the fall semester. They are **Hannah Yackley**, microbiology, St. Stephen; **Haley Klundt**, economics, and **Kaleb Myhrwold**, exercise and sport science, both from Sartell.

Eric Minnerath, a student at Sartell High School, has been awarded a Pacific Lutheran University President’s Scholarship worth \$26,000 a year — along with the opportunity to earn more. Pacific Lutheran University, a private liberal arts university in Tacoma, Wash., offers merit scholarships to recognize academic achievement, leadership and service, as well as the promise of continued success.

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Council approves 2018 budget, levy

by Dennis Dalman
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell City Council approved a tax-and-levy budget for 2018 with a 1.2 percent tax-rate increase at a recent meeting during a Truth-in-Taxation public hearing.

There were no comments from the audience.

It passed on a 4-1 vote. Council member David Peterson voted no. He said he is happy how the city staff and council keep within a reasonable budget every year, but he explained he has "struggled" with how the taxpayers will likely have to cover operational short-falls every year at the new Sartell Community Center.

The tax levy for 2018 will be \$6,313,935, which means that is how much must be raised through taxes. It includes \$5,102,888 for the city's general fund, a street-abatement fund of \$445,000, an ice-arena abatement fund of \$22,467 and three debt-service payments of about \$745,000 for debts incurred in the years 2007, 2008 and 2009.

The 2018 budget will make possible a new full-time police officer, a full-time community-service officer for the police department, a full-time street-maintenance employee, increases for street- and equipment funding (about \$60,000-worth) and some funding to prepare for elections in November 2018, with some help from state funding. Those funds will help update the city's voting equipment.

In his questioning of the budget, Peterson said he has trouble with the city having to keep putting money into the new community center, estimated at an amount of about \$200,000 per year based on rough estimates. In other city-private projects, such as the ice arena and Pinecone Central Park, he said, the outcomes were more or less net-neutral, which do not burden taxpayers. Peterson said the council should perhaps consider, to be fair across the board, agreements with those other entities by pitching in in balanced amounts vis a vis city and private.

Sartell Administrator/Financial Director Mary Degiovanni said the council has a perfect right to change its policies. But she also noted in the case of Pinecone Central Park and the Bernick's Ice Arena, those projects are not all-inclusive nearly as much as the community center is. The community center, she noted, from its inception was meant to include all city residents for a wide variety of uses, and thus, like other city services, such as parks, the city should probably expect to pay some annual costs.

The council seemed to agree with Degiovanni, and council member Mike Chisum noted the community center, which just recently opened, will have solid information in about a year about how it is doing financially as far as revenue from fees and other factors, including maintenance costs.

Lathe

from front page

They plan to go to the popular amusement park in Florida this summer.

Lathe suffers from spinal muscular atrophy that robs her of strength and makes it virtually impossible to walk.

Lathe's surprise grew even brighter when she looked up at the projection screen and suddenly saw a video of actress Kelly Marie Tran, who plays Rose Tico in the Star Wars movie, *The Last Jedi*. Lathe, who loves Star Wars movies, was overwhelmed to the point of tears when she saw and heard Tran congratulate her and wish her the best.

And then the band began to play. The Middle School Band performed a rousing version of the Mickey Mouse theme song, but instead of M-I-C-K-E-Y, M-O-U-S-E, the crowd chanted a high-decibel chanted S-O-P-H-I-E, L-A-T-H-E!

The rip-roaring pep rally was the culmination of Sartell schools' raising \$18,000 for the Make-a-Wish Foundation, enough to pay for Lathe's trip and wishes by two other children. Inspired by efforts of the Sartell High School Student Council, students held many fundraisers. The fundraising campaign for Lathe was spearheaded by high school students Aidan Speckhard and Emma Gunderson.

Dozens of students from Sartell High School led the Sophie Lathe pep rally, leading the middle schoolers in spirited

Sabre-sports pep chants.

Lathe is the daughter of Holly and Garrett Lathe. She has three siblings: Emma, Kate and Spencer. Garrett is the choir director for Sauk Rapids-Rice High School; and Holly is a music teacher at Sartell's Pine Meadow Elementary School.

Make-a-Wish

Mary Steffes of Sartell has been a Make-a-Wish coordinator and "granter" since 2008. She was one of three women who congratulated Lathe at the middle school pep rally.

"The students are the ones who deserve the credit," Steffes said. "They raised so much money. The student council is so happy about it. That is why the high school and middle school decided to hold a pep rally together."

Another middle school stu-

dent recently granted a wish from Make-a-Wish Foundation is Jackson Stewart who wanted a golf cart and was granted one.

Steffes became involved with the foundation when the young son of a friend died of a terminal illness years ago. Make-a-Wish, Steffes noted, used to be for terminally ill young people only, but it is now for those suffering life-threatening medical conditions.

Make-a-Wish, with headquarters in Phoenix was founded in 1980.

Steffes also works as a sub-para for special-needs students in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district. Since her involvement with Make-a-Wish, she has helped coordinate nine wishes that include a trip to Paris, a Disney cruise, a swim with dolphins and a Best Buy shopping spree.



photo by Dennis Dalman

The Lathe family is preparing for a summer trip to Disney World in Florida, thanks to a wish granted by the Make-a-Wish Foundation. In front is Sophie Lathe, who was presented with a Mickey Mouse ears cap at a Jan. 26 middle-school pep rally. Her family is (left to right) father Garrett; sisters Emma and Kate; mother Holly; and brother Spencer.



photo by Dennis Dalman

Sophie Lathe, surrounded by her family, listens to the Sartell Middle School Band perform a unique version of the Mickey Mouse theme song. On the screen at right is a still from a video from Stars Wars actress Kelly Marie Tran, which was recorded just for Lathe.

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Opinion

It's not goodbye; it's 'see you around'

Our View

Make your voice heard at precinct caucuses

The midterm elections are 10 months away, but the first chance for voters to shape the ballot takes place on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

That's when political parties conduct precinct caucuses to begin the process of endorsing candidates, selecting delegates to conventions and staking out positions on key issues.

Turnout for midterm elections is consistently lower than presidential years. But these elections are just as important as electing a president, especially in Minnesota this year.

We'll be electing a new governor. There are at least a half-dozen candidates in each party looking to replace Mark Dayton. Both political parties plan preference ballots for governor.

Because Al Franken resigned, both U.S. Senate seats are up. Amy Klobuchar will be running for a six-year term. Franken's replacement, Tina Smith, will be running to fill out the last two years of Franken's term. Republicans will be choosing challengers.

Rep. Tom Emmer, who has been a strong Trump supporter, says he's running for re-election in the Sixth District and Democrats will nominate a candidate to challenge him.

All the state House of Representative seats are up. Locally, Jeff Howe represents the St. Joseph area in District 13A and Tim O'Driscoll represents the Sartell area in District 13B. Both men are Republicans.

Caucus members will choose delegates to future conventions who will endorse state and federal candidates.

There will be local, county and school board races on the ballot too but those candidates run without party designation so they are not part of the caucus agenda.

The political parties run the caucuses. They all start at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

To participate, you need to be an eligible voter and then you need to pick which party's caucus to attend. The Minnesota Secretary of State has an online tool for finding Republican and DFL locations at <http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>. When you enter your address, your precinct name and caucus location as well as your congressional, legislative, school and county commission districts are displayed.

The site also has a link for information about Minnesota's minor political parties such as the Green Party and the Independence Party.

Here are locations for the major party caucuses in St. Joseph and Sartell.

DFL: Sartell: Sartell High School

Republicans: Sartell all precincts, St. Stephen, Le Sauk Township: Sartell Middle School.

Attending a caucus offers a chance to engage with your neighbors and make your voice heard at the grassroots level. Mark your calendars.

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

Newsleaders

Reaching EVERYbody!

The ideas expressed in the letters to the editor and of the guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Newsleaders*.

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, MN 56374. 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.

It's not goodbye; it's 'see you around.' People who love their jobs never really retire from them. The jobs become part of their blood and bones. And that would be me. At age 70, I retired recently from my 20-year job as editor of the *Sartell-St. Stephen* and *St. Joseph Newsleaders*.

But not really; it's not a total retirement because I will continue to write as a freelancer for those newspapers. I just can't totally let go of a job I've loved so long.

My two decades with the *Newsleaders* have been wonderful years, thanks to the unwavering support of its founder/owner/publisher Janelle Von Pinnon. I often dubbed her the "Energizer Bunny" because she is non-stop passionately dedicated to providing local news through thick and thin. The word "quit" is not in her vocabulary.

There are so many people to thank, including the many talented and fun fellow employees I've worked with year after year.

Reporting is such a fascinating job because it involves an endless curiosity, always meeting people, each with a unique and fascinating story to tell. I've interviewed people from the entire spectrum of humanity: poets, inventors, gardeners, woodworkers, musicians, mechanics, street workers, high-achieving students, business entrepreneurs, historians, novelists, athletes, brilliant nuns, police officers, artists, doctors, nurses, teachers, stamp

Dennis Dalman
Editor



collectors . . . well, the list goes on.

In Sartell, there were so many happy, upbeat stories to cover: parks and trails developments, the beautification projects in the city, the creation of Pinecone Central Park, construction of the ice arena, the formation and subsequent success of the Senior Connection, the farmers' markets, expansion of the medical campus, the building of Oak Ridge Elementary School, voter approval of a new high school – to name just some.

Nearby St. Stephen was also a pleasure to cover – its many interesting people, its Slovenian heritage, its entertaining centennial events, which included one of the most enjoyable, imaginative parades I've ever seen.

Annual Sartell events that were always fun to report on were the Sartell Summerfest, the Apple Duathlon and the always-heartfelt Memorial Day ceremony in Veterans Park. On a beautiful Monday morning, I was standing in that park, covering that ceremony, taking photos and notes. At one point I looked across the river at the Verso paper mill and thought to myself, "That may be an industrial plant,

Encore career takes me back to my roots

You've heard about encore careers? That's the work in the second half of life after retirement.

A lawyer becomes an organic farmer, a stockbroker pursues an encore career as a sculptor...you get the idea.

In your encore career, you're supposed to find a job that provides greater personal meaning and social impact.

It turns out my encore career...*Newsleaders* editor...is pretty much the same as my pre-retirement career.

I worked at the *St. Cloud Times* for 42 years in a number of roles including photo editor, assistant managing editor and the No. 2 person in the newsroom. That job ended in October 2016 when my position and about a dozen others, including the publisher and executive editor, were eliminated.

My wife, Marian Rengel, and I planned to leave the full-time workforce in early 2017 so the abrupt end to work had little impact other than creating immediate free time.

For years, I've been an adjunct faculty

Mike Knaak
Editor



member at St. Cloud State University teaching a variety of journalism classes. This last fall semester, I taught photojournalism. The man I'm replacing, Dennis Dalman, was one of my students long ago.

Since retiring from full-time work, people ask me if I miss being at the *Times*. Yes, I miss my former colleagues and I miss the news. Newsrooms are filled with the most creative and passionate people you'll find anywhere. But I don't miss managing a daily newspaper, a 24/7 web site and getting calls at all hours of the day and night.

Retirement allowed Marian and me the chance to travel, including visiting our adult daughters. One works in New York City and the other daughter works in Washington, D.C. Those are great cities for trips.

but it sure looks pretty on a morning like this with that baby-blue exterior."

Two hours later, back home, digging a bush out of my yard, neighbors rushed over to tell me the Sartell paper plant had just exploded. I can still feel the shock I felt at that sinking moment. Covering news, obviously, is not always a happy job. The paper-mill explosion, the death of a worker (Jon Maus) and the plant's subsequent closing were such tragic outcomes to have to write about. The death of that plant, a bedrock of Sartell for more than a century, truly did evoke an End-of-an-Era feeling.

There were so many good people in Sartell who regularly gave me excellent story tips – people such as Kaye Wenker, Sandra Cordie, Mike DeLuca, Lori Dornburg, Dennis Molitor, Amy Braig-Lindstrom, Jan Sorell, Carolyn Bertsch . . . too many to mention. But I want to thank them all. I hope they continue to keep those good story ideas coming to the *Newsleader*, to the attention of its new editor, Mike Knaak, whom I'm happy to report was my college photojournalism teacher once upon a time. And Mike, lucky guy, is younger than me.

Not to forget, I want to thank our loyal readers and our supportive advertisers.

In my retirement – well, OK, partial retirement – I plan to do some traveling, novel-writing, oil-painting and – yes – some newspaper stories.

So instead of saying "So long, goodbye," I'll say "Hey, hope to see you around."

And for years we've been Twins, Wild, Gophers, Huskies and more recently Minnesota United fans. Now we have plenty of time for games.

About a year ago, I joined the St. Cloud Municipal Band. I've played saxophone since elementary school but my full-time journalism career didn't leave much time for music.

That music connection led me to the *Newsleaders*. Fellow saxophone player (and *Newsleaders* designer) Patric Lewandowski, arrived at rehearsal one night a few weeks ago and said, "Hey Mike, I've got a job for you." I replied I wasn't looking for work. But he shared some details and here I am.

During the first meeting with my potential co-workers and boss, I was impressed with their passion, engagement with readers and clear sense of purpose.

So, I'm back. The hours aren't nearly as long but I'm working with creative people reporting and photographing the news. Not bad for an encore career and I still have time for the saxophone.

Human trafficking surrounds the Super Bowl

Megan Mechelke, representative of the Sartell High School Students Against Human Trafficking Club

The Department of Homeland Security defines human trafficking as "a form of modern-day slavery" that uses "force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act." In 2012 the International Labor Organization estimated about 21 million people were enslaved globally, 1.5 million in the United States and Canada. That number continues to grow nationally and statewide. Minnesota Department of Transportation reported in 2015, Minnesota had the third highest number of



trafficking cases in the United States, and in 2013 the Twin Cities was named one of the 13 largest trafficking centers worldwide. The United Nations names sexual exploitation the most common form of human trafficking. A November 2010 study from the Women's Foundation of Minnesota found 45 girls under 18 are sold for sex in Minnesota on any weekend night.

Globally, this criminal industry can profit up to \$150 billion a year.

Furthermore, it has been suggested the number of sex-trafficking cases increases around the Super Bowl. In 2011, current Texas governor Greg Abbott called the Super Bowl the "largest human-trafficking event." In an October 2017 article published by Kare11, Sgt. Grant Snyder, head of the MPD Human Trafficking Team, suggested this claim is not entirely accurate. He argued year-round trafficking numbers are equally as high as those seen during the Super Bowl and suggested inflation of trafficking numbers around the time

Trafficking • page 7

Trafficking

from page 6

of the game is likely due to the simple fact there is an increase in the number of people in the area. However, Pete Orput, the Washington County Attorney, sees things differently. He states the number of advertisements related to sexual exploitation sees a huge increase during events such as the Super Bowl and theorizes it may have just as much to do with the attendees as the population increase.

In the end, trafficking statistics do see a spike during the Super Bowl, regardless of the reason. However, the more pressing issue is that of trafficking on an everyday scale. This is a real problem that impacts real people every moment of every day, and it's not something that can be ignored. It's essential the general population understands the depth of the trafficking pandemic and realizes there is something they can do to stop its spread.

The first step is to become educated about the issue. Human trafficking is


often referred to as a silent crime as victims of trafficking very rarely come forward due to trauma, abuse and fear of those who have exploited them. Along these lines, it's also important to end the criminalization of victims. Individuals who have been sexually exploited are victims of a terrible crime, and they do not deserve further punishment and shaming. Lastly, without a demand, sexual exploitation would not be the extremely lucrative business it is today.

Both the Department of Justice and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children recognize one of the major factors influencing the rise and profitability of human trafficking is the extensive market for pornography. The Pure Hope Coalition reports more than \$3,000 is spent every second on pornography, making the industry as profitable as it is terrible. Education of youth and adults alike of the terror that is sex trafficking will help to reduce the number of individuals looking to buy sex and thus end the demand and stop the trade. In this way, it falls into the hands of all human beings to educate themselves and work to stop the spread of human trafficking.

Everett Nathe, 86

St. Stephen, MN.
Sept. 28, 1931-Jan. 24, 2018

Mass of Christian Burial celebrating the life of Everett A. Nathe, 86, of St. Stephen will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in St. Stephen. Everett passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Jan. 24, 2018, at Banner Baywood Medical Center in Mesa, Ariz. The Rev. Eugene Doyle will officiate. Burial with military honors will take place in the parish cemetery. Visitation will be from 4 - 8 p.m. Friday and after 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Ste-



Community Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374; fax it to 320-363-4195; or, 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.

Monday, Feb. 5
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.
Lunch and cards, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-2 p.m., Trobec's Bar & Grill, 1 Central Ave. S., St. Stephen.
Photographer Nathalie Daoust's newest project and U.S. premier of *Korean Dreams* which shows a forbid-

dawn look at North Korea, hosted by Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 St. Germain St., St. Cloud, 320-257-3106 (On display until Feb. 18).

Lunch and cards, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-3 p.m., Rusty Nail, 4 CR 2 S., St. Stephen. (through February)
Sartell Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., upstairs of Blue Line Sports Bar and Grill, 1101 Second St. S., Sartell. 320-267-2591.
Rice City Council, 7 p.m., council chambers, Rice City Hall, 205 Main St. E. 320-393-2280.
Sauk Rapids Planning Commission, 7 p.m., council chambers, Sauk Rapids Government Center, 250 Summit Ave. N. 320-258-5300. ci.sauk-rapids.mn.us
Sauk Rapids Riverside Lions Club, 7 p.m., Jimmy's Pour House, 22 Second Ave. N., Sauk Rapids. e-club-

house.org/sites/srriverside
Tuesday, Feb. 6
Greater St. Cloud Community Pillars Forum, 7:30-10 a.m., Terry Haws Room, River's Edge Convention Center, 10 Fourth Ave. S., St. Cloud. greaterstcloud.com/community-pillars.
Sauk Rapids HRA Board, 6 p.m., council chambers, Sauk Rapids Government Center, 250 Summit Ave. N. 320-258-5300. ci.sauk-rapids.mn.us.
Watab Township Board, 7 p.m., 660-75th St. NW, Sauk Rapids. watabtownship.com Benton Telecommunications channel 3.
Wednesday, Feb. 7
Veterans Art Show, an annual competitive event that provides veterans receiving treatment at VA facilities the opportunity to participate in creative self-expression in art, creative

phen Parish Hall. Parish prayers will be at 4 p.m. on Friday at the Parish Hall. Arrangements are with Daniel Funeral Home in St. Cloud.
Everett was born on Sept. 28, 1931, in Sauk Centre to Albert and Margaret (Mies) Nathe. He graduated from Paynesville High School and shortly after joined the US Navy. He proudly served as an aerial engineer until his honorable discharge in 1955. Everett married Beverly Notch on Nov. 16, 1957, at St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Lake Henry. He operated Nathe Insurance Agency, American Family Insurance for 54 years, retiring in 2013. He also farmed for many years with his brother, Ken. Everett was a member of St. Stephen Parish, the Waite Park American Legion Silver Star Post 428,

the St. Cloud Eagles Aerie 622 and the Order of Moose 1400.
Everett loved time with his family, farming and hunting. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.
He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Beverly; children, Michael (Melonie Jeska) of Avon, Kathryn (Jeff) Vander Plaats of Paynesville; five grandchildren, Jeremy and Justin Nathe, Nathan, Kate and Matthew Warnert; five great grandchildren; siblings, Lorraine Putzke of Plymouth and James (Janet) Nathe of Foley; and many nieces, nephews and friends.
He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Cheryl Ann in 1983; daughter-in-law, Betty Nathe; brothers, Kenneth and Dale.

Friday, Feb. 9
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org

Saturday, Feb. 10
Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.
DeYaeger Family benefit, 4-9 p.m., VFW Post 6992, 901 N. Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids. deyaegerbenefit@gmail.com.

Sunday, Feb. 11
Breakfast and silent auction for Project ASTRIDE, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., Moose Lodge, 1300 Third St. N.. Waite Park. 320-250-9137.

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Veterans Art show Feb. 7, 8

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

For many artists, their gifts and talents of expressing themselves through their work can also be a form of therapy.

The Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, nationwide, use the creative arts as a form of rehabilitative treatment for veterans recovering from and coping with physical and emotional disabilities.

Veterans enrolled at Veterans Affairs health-care facilities may compete in a local creative-arts competition.

Many forms of art expression by veterans will be displayed at the Veterans Art Show from 12:30-6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, in the Auditorium, Building 8, at the St. Cloud VA Health Care campus.

Barry Venable, public affairs officer of the St. Cloud VA Health Care System, said medical facilities incorporate creative arts into their recreation therapy programs to further the rehabilitation milieu for both inpatients and outpatients.

The annual art competition recognizes the progress and recovery made through that therapy and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of the nation's veterans after disease, disability and life crisis.

Through the show, veterans receiving treatment at VA facilities have a chance to participate in creative self expression through art, creative writing, dance, drama and music as part of their therapy and to gain recognition for their artistic accomplishments.

The competition is open to veterans who are enrolled at a VA medical center or outpatient clinic before entering the local competition.

"We're excited to be able to share the artwork with the public and encourage community members to visit the show," Venable said.

Madge Scherer, a music therapist at the St. Cloud facility, is coordinating the local art show and the other St. Cloud entries for the National Veterans Creative Arts Program this year. She has been involved with the creative arts program for nine years, but just recently took on the leadership role for the art show.

Scherer said the St. Cloud art show has been taking place since about 1994. In 2017, there were 3,480 entries in all divisions (dance, drama, music, art and creative writing) from veterans representing 138 VA facilities nationwide. The St. Cloud show had 75 entries and they hope to reach close to that number again this year.

The National Veterans Creative

Arts Festival program and show are coordinated by St. Cloud VA employees Elizabeth Mackey and Amy Kimbler.

Both have worked as music therapists at the St. Cloud VA, but have worked full-time with the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival for several years. Mackey has been the director of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival since 1995 and Kimbler has been a program specialist since 2004.

Mackey said they believe strongly in the arts as therapy and it's a privilege to serve veterans who use the therapeutic arts in their lives. Through art, music, dance, drama and writing veterans communicate emotions, feelings and thoughts related to their experiences that many times are difficult to express verbally.

The Department of Veterans Affairs and the American Legion Auxiliary co-present the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival. Through the local and national competition phase of the program, veterans receive recognition for their creative accomplishments and people are made more aware of the arts as an avenue toward healing and sustaining good mental and physical health.

This year, the competition includes 51 categories in the visual arts division and 100 categories in the performing arts.



contributed photo

Veteran Michael Bray represented the St. Cloud Veterans Administration Health Care System at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in 2016 in Jackson, Mississippi. His gold medal-winning artwork "Tribute to the Troops Guitar" received first-place nationally in the Applied Art, Mixed Media category of the art division.

First-, second- and third-place entries are judged in each category.

"Thanks to the many veteran and volunteer organizations who provide the support to make the

show and competition available to veterans," Venable said.

The show is free and open to the public.

beer of the month

16⁹⁸
Coors Light & Miller Lite
24 Pack 12 Oz. Cans

17⁹⁸
Budweiser, Bud Light & Michelob Golden Draft Light
24 Pack 16 Oz. Cans

11⁹⁸
Keystone Light Beer
24 Pack 12 Oz. Cans

12⁹⁸
Stella Artois & Stella Cidr
12 Pack Bottles

11⁹⁸
Sierra Nevada
12 Pack Bottles
All Available Types

11⁹⁸
Alaskan
12 Pack 12 Oz. Bottles
All Available Types

21⁹⁸
Michael's Irish Cream
1.75 Liter

23⁹⁸
Los Rijos Silver Tequila
750ml

14⁹⁸
E&J VS Or Christian Brothers Brandy
1.75 Liter

16⁹⁸
Malibu Coconut Rum
1.75 Liter

23⁹⁸
Prairie Vodka
1.75 Liter
\$4.98 6 Pack 12 Oz. Cans Barritt's Ginger Beer

12⁹⁸
Seagram's Vodka Or Gin
1.75 Liter
Original And Lime Twisted

21⁹⁸
1792 Ridgmont Reserve
750ml

29⁹⁸
Pendleton Canadian
1.75 Liter

12⁹⁸
Big House
3 Liter
All Available Types
Save Even More With \$12 Mail-In-Rebate On 3 Box Purchase

12⁹⁸
Columbia Crest
750ml
Grand Estate Types
\$9.98 H3 Types

14⁹⁸
Jam Cellars
750ml
Butter Chardonnay & Jam Cabernet

13⁹⁸
Benziger
750 ml
Cabernet
\$9.98 Chardonnay
Save Even More With \$36 Mail-In-Rebate On 12 Bottle Purchase

14 Hands
750ml
Hot To Trot Red, Run Wild Red, Hot To Trot White, Riesling & Pinot Grigio
\$8.98 Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot & Stampede Red
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7⁹⁸
13 Celsius, Love Noir & Insurrection
750ml
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3⁹⁸
Beringer Main & Vine
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