

# Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader

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## Town Crier

### Chamber event Feb. 24 to showcase businesses

Escape the cold at the 13th annual Sartell Community Showcase from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. The family-friendly event features more than 80 vendor booths with children's games, prizes and products for purchase. Explore the new community center with the scavenger hunt. The event is sponsored by PineCone Vision Center and the Sartell Chamber of Commerce. For more information, visit [sartellchamber.com](http://sartellchamber.com).

### Swing Dance set Feb. 26 at SHS

The second annual Sartell High School Swing Dance will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26 at Sartell High School. The event will be held in the high school commons and will feature four performance groups: High School Jazz Band I and II and both Middle School jazz bands. Before the main event, free swing-dance lessons will be provided from 6:30-7 p.m. by StudioJeff of St. Cloud. Free-will donations are encouraged. All donations benefit the Sartell High School Band Activity Fund, which covers the Jazz Band, Pep Band and Marching Band.

### Catholic Charities seeks foster grandparents

Catholic Charities Central Minnesota Foster Grandparent Program is seeking volunteers. Adults age 55 and over can receive an hourly tax-free stipend, mileage/travel reimbursement and ongoing training by volunteering 15 hours per week (or more if they wish) assisting children with activities, reinforcing learning, helping with art projects and more. This is a great opportunity if you have time to spare, love to be with children and could use some extra non-taxable income. For more information, call Jennifer at 320-229-4589 or contact by email at [jlieser@ccstcloud.org](mailto:jlieser@ccstcloud.org).

### Newsleaders names contest winners

Winners of the Valentine's Day contest gift baskets are Rosemary Beckrich from Sartell and Mike Twedt of St. Joseph. The winning answers were the following: A = "All of the Stars" by Ed Sheeran = China Star; B = "For Your Eyes Only" by Sheena Easton = PineCone Vision Center; C = "Beyond the Sea" by Bobby Darin = Jack Splash Swim School; D = "You are My Sunshine" by Ray Charles = Pediatric Dentistry; and E = "You Make Me Smile" by Uncle Kracker = Welch Dental Care. Thank you to all who participated in this year's contest.

## Let the games begin!



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

**Team U.S.A. members (left to right) Madison Bruzek, 9; Alex Kenyon, 10; and Sophie Heathcote, 10, watch excitedly Feb. 9 as each classroom proudly marches into the Pine Meadow Elementary School gymnasium sporting their countries' colors and flags to commemorate the beginning of the 2018 Winter Olympics.**

## Sheriff candidate Bentrud favors holistic concept

*(Editor's note: Two candidates have announced plans to run for Stearns County sheriff. This week Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud is profiled. Next week Lt. Robert Dickhaus of the Stearns County Sheriff's Office will be profiled.)*

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

The surest path to effective law enforcement, not to mention crime prevention, is a tightly interconnected, collaborative approach, according to Stearns County sheriff candidate



Bentrud

Dave Bentrud. "In this modern era, there are many sophisticated problems," he said. "That is why we need to be more collaborative, working together in a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary way. We need improvements in the ways we should share information."

As an example, Bentrud noted some people commit crimes in many places – in a whole string of cities or counties – and nobody connects the dots. And connecting the dots, he said, is not just important to catch the offenders but to try to get them the help they need before their multiple offenses continue.

The kind of connection Bentrud envisions and  
**Bentrud • page 5**

## Paggen treated to 'shock of a day'

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

On her birthday, on her last day of work, Sandy Paggen of rural St. Stephen gave a flurry of hugs to a circle of misty-eyed co-workers, then looked out the front door, and through eyes still wet with tears, she saw a sleek white stretch limo parked there.

Someone unrolled a red carpet from the limo.

Paggen, still inside the lobby, gasped when she realized the limo was waiting for her. A wellspring of tears mixed

with giggles followed as she opened the lobby door to be greeted with cheers by family members.

"I'm shocked, I'm totally shocked," said Paggen, who looked as if she were trying to awaken from a dream. "This is not happening! Is it?"

It happened at Wiman Plastics, Paggen's longtime work place in Sauk Rapids Industrial Park. In 45 years, Paggen was never late for work, not even once.

The stretch limo was only one of the many sneaky big surprises in store for Paggen on

Feb. 9. Earlier, Brian Evenson, operator/manager of Wiman Plastics, had catered a meal for all of the employees from Famous Dave's, in honor of Paggen's retirement.

"That was the first surprise," Paggen said.

Then along came the limo. It whisked her and family members to Grand Casino to enjoy some rounds of gambling.

"I came out 36 cents ahead," Paggen said later, laughing.

After dining at a restaurant, the partying family bundled back into the limo and headed back home, just south of St.

Stephen. On the way, someone suggested, what the heck, why not stop for a quick drink at Howie's Bar in St. Stephen?

When Paggen entered Howie's, she totally lost it, dissolving into tears. There, right in front of her, all cheering and singing, were brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews and some co-workers. The bar was jam-packed with celebrants, not surprising since Paggen (nee Skroch) is third in a family of 14.

They sang Happy Birthday; they sang Happy Retirement;  
**Paggen • page 4**

## Sartell students learn about 'Humphrey' hamster

by Cori Hilsgen  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

Students in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district are learning about hamsters, hamster dances and more as they participate in the One District, One Book program.

Sartell students at Oak Ridge and Pine Meadow elementary schools and their families are reading *The World According to Humphrey*, written by Betty G. Birney, for the program.

"One District, One Book is a unique opportunity for students and families to share the experience of reading a common book while building a love of reading across our community," said Sarah Kleppe, communications specialist. "The program which promotes family literacy occurs during February which is also I Love to Read month."

About 1,200 books were distributed to every family with students in kindergarten through fourth grade at

Oak Ridge and Pine Meadow schools.

The book was kept secret until early February when there was a big reveal at both schools.

Staff, however, did offer some hints prior to the reveal about what the title of the book might be.

Media center staff at Oak Ridge Elementary created a pet shop as a hint for students.

The story is about Humphrey, a class pet hamster,



contributed photo  
**Pine Meadow Elementary School second-grader Lyla Durrwachter holds a copy of *The World According to Humphrey*, which students and families are reading for the One District, One Book program during the month of February.**



## Blotter

If you have a tip concerning a crime, call the Sartell Police Department at 320-251-8186 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 320-255-1301, or access its tip site at [www.tricountycrimestoppers.org](http://www.tricountycrimestoppers.org). Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime. This information is submitted by the Sartell Police Department.

### Jan. 31

12:45 a.m. Traffic stop. 21 CR120. While patrolling on Riverside Avenue S. an officer ran a license-plate check on the vehicle in front of him. Records showed the registered owner of the vehicle was suspended. The officer observed the driver matched the registered owner so he conducted a stop. While speaking with the driver, the officer observed a small baggie of a powdery substance in the center console. A K9 unit was dispatched to assist officers in a drug sniff. A Stearns County K9 arrived on scene and conducted a sniff. The dog alerted

on the driver’s side door. Officers searched the vehicle and located only the baggie. The substance was field tested and confirmed to be methamphetamine. The driver, who was also the registered owner of the vehicle, was arrested and could be charged with fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance and driving while suspended.

### Feb. 1

6:56 p.m. Vehicle accident. Pinecone Road and 23rd Street S. Officers were dispatched to a vehicle collision possibly involving injuries. While enroute, officers were notified one of the vehicles had fled the scene. Law enforcement saturated the area to locate the suspect. A Stearns County deputy located three parties fighting on the corner of Thru Drive and CR 134. The deputy soon learned two of the parties were attempting to subdue the man who fled the scene. Officers arrived on scene and detained the suspect. Officers searched the man and found a container inside the man’s sock. The contents of the container tested

positive for meth-amphetamine. The man was placed under arrest for fifth-degree possession. Statements and photos were taken from the vehicle collision scene and all parties involved where assessed by Gold Cross Ambulance. No injuries were reported.

### Feb. 2

10:04 p.m. Behavioral health. Second Avenue NE. Officers were dispatched to a group home for a report of a 15-year-old boy who was being verbally and physically aggressive toward staff. Officers arrived and met with staff. A staff member stated the boy had pushed him down, scratched his face and broke door handles in the home. The boy continued to be verbally aggressive until an officer spoke with him. The officer was able to de-escalate the boy’s behavior, calming him down. Staff didn’t wish to press charges.

### Feb. 3

10:28 a.m. Medical. 21 CR 120. Officers were dispatched to

Walmart for a report of a woman who had fallen in the entryway and hit her head. Officers arrived and found the woman conscious. Officers observed a bump forming on the back of her head but no blood was present. An officer held an ice pack on the injured area until Gold Cross arrived on scene. Paramedics took over the assessment.

### Feb. 4

8:50 a.m. Medical. Second Street N. An officer was dispatched to a report of an elderly man who was having difficulty breathing. The officer arrived on scene and observed the man to be weak and very pale. The officer provided high-flow oxygen and monitored his status until Gold Cross arrived on scene. The officer then assisted with loading for transport to the hospital.

### Feb. 5

3:28 p.m. Traffic stop. Evergreen Drive. An officer observed a vehicle traveling north on CR 1. As the vehicle entered the roundabout at Heritage Drive it crossed a solid white

line, failing to maintain its lane. The officer stopped the vehicle. When asked why she was unable to maintain her lane, the driver stated she wasn’t paying attention. The driver was unable to locate her driver’s license for the officer. She also was unable to prove she had insurance on the vehicle. The officer cited the driver for no proof of insurance. She was verbally warned for failing to maintain lane.

### Feb. 6

7:45 a.m. Medical. An officer was dispatched for a report of an elderly woman who was dizzy. The officer arrived and found the woman face down in her bedroom. The woman stated she was dizzy and had fallen, but didn’t remember how. The officer supported her neck and then rolled the woman over. The officer observed bruising around the woman’s left eye. Gold Cross arrived and took over the assessment. The officer assisted with getting the patient into the stair chair and then into the ambulance. The woman was transported to St. Cloud Hospital.

## People

**Two Sartell students** have been named to the fall semester president’s list at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. Students achieving president’s list honors earned a 4.0 grade-point average. The students are **Zachery Fisher** and **Brooke Radi**.

**Robert Sobania**, a Sartell student majoring in applied mathematics and computer science, received the chancellor’s award for fall semester at University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie. The award is presented to students who have a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.

**Six Sartell students** have

been named to the fall semester dean’s list at Concordia College, Moorhead. To qualify, students must carry a minimum of 12 semester credits and have a grade-point average of at least a 3.7 on a 4.0 scale.

The students are: **Megan Franz**, **Curt Koopmeiners**, **Hannah Kosloski**, **Joshua Maricle-Roberts**, **Emma Mitzel** and **Alyssa Yapp**.

**Nine area students** have been named to the honor list and high honor list for fall semester at Mankato State University, Mankato. Students are named to the high honor list by achieving a 4.0 grade-point average, while students earning a 3.5 to 3.99 grade-point average

qualify for the honor list.

**Mackenzie Dockendorf**, a St. Stephen senior majoring in exercise science, and **Kira Haglin**, a Sartell junior majoring in communication disorders, were named to the high honor list.

Sartell students named to the honor list were the following: **Nathan Boenish**, a sophomore majoring in finance; **Sydney Dille**, a sophomore majoring in elementary education; **Taylor Reetz**, a senior majoring in recreation, parks and leisure services; **Nicole Schefers**, a junior majoring in gender and women studies and psychology; **McKenzie Specht**, a junior majoring in psychology; **Katelyn Tragiai**, a

junior majoring in family consumer science; and **Mackenzie Vosberg**, a freshman majoring in exercise science.

**Thirty-six area students** have achieved academic honors at St. Cloud Technical & Community College.

Students, who earned president’s list honors by achieving a grade-point average of 4.0, are the following: **Jake Brenhaug**, **Tyler Cronquist**, **Andrew Groth**, **Amanda Hartnell**, **Brianna Hinnenkamp**, **Jarret Janu**, **Nicholas Lengyel**, **Jacquelyn Middendorf**, **Nathan Nierenhausen**, **Abigail Silman**, **Amanda Silva**, **Sandra Tabor**, and **Lindsay Greninger**.

Students named to the dean’s list, with a grade-point average of 3.5 to 3.9, are the following: **Kaiya Anderson**, **Kenneth Cruze**, **Tyler Elness**, **Kaleb Fisher**, **Nicole Fournier**, **Tessa Hager**, **Jennifer Hallerman**, **EvaLynn Johnson**, **Jessica Kinkaid**, **Olivia Lamont**, **Caylie Layne**, **Adam Pardoen**, **Jessica Potzmann**, **Ashley Raymond**, **Mitchell Rolek**, **Ann Stang**, **Morgan Tesch**,

**Thomas Trnka**, **Amanda Trutwin**, **Megan VanHeel**, **Rachel Veerkamp**, **Jake Welle** and **Andrew Wensman**.

**Fournier**, **Greninger** and **Hallerman** are from St. Stephen; all others are from Sartell.

**Employees from Stearns Electric Association** recently visited fourth-graders at Oak Ridge Elementary School in Sartell to provide an interactive presentation on energy efficiency and electrical safety.

Stearns Electric’s live, energized home-and-farm model was the highlight of the presentation. The model was used to show students what can happen when they get too close to electrical equipment.

Students also learned if the vehicle they are in hits a power pole, they should always stay in the vehicle, unless it’s on fire. If the vehicle is on fire near a power pole, passengers should jump out of the vehicle with feet together and shuffle as far away from the accident as possible.

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People



contributed photo

TJ Raden, a Sartell High School senior, recently signed a National Letter of Intent to attend and play golf for Bemidji State University. Raden, a captain for the golf team, participated in the state golf tournament as a junior. Raden has participated in two Les Voyageurs trips including one 930-mile trek to the Arctic Ocean last summer. Raden, a third-generation BSU student is currently considering a pre-optometry major with an environmental science minor.

Stearns Electric visits Oak Ridge



contributed photos

Fourth-grader Aaron Lang dresses up like a line worker.



Fourth-graders at Oak Ridge Elementary School learn about staying safe near power lines.

John Livinghouse, a junior and son of Sarah and Dr. John Livinghouse of Sartell, was named the Marine Military Academy January 2018 Cadet of the Month for the Silent Drill Team.

The cadet who receives this award is nominated by his drill team instructor for his exemplary conduct, attitude and performance. Livinghouse, a first-year cadet, will study chemistry at the University of Minnesota and will likely become a biomedical scientist.

The Marine Military Academy is a college preparatory school in Harlingen, Texas.



contributed photo

Junior John Livinghouse of Sartell accepts the Marine Military Academy February 2018 Cadet of the Month certificate from Superintendent Col. R. Glenn Hill.

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# Hartwig succeeds in goal to play college baseball

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Baseball scholarship recipient Riley Hartwig of Sartell has to search for words to explain why he loves baseball so much.

During an interview with the *Newsleader*, Hartwig paused for a long time.

“Well, I . . . I can’t put it into words,” he said. “I guess it’s just being with people you know and like, it’s about developing bonds, and it’s a team sport but also an individual sport at the same time.”

Hartwig paused again. “It’s those things,” he said, “but it’s something more, and I just can’t find words to describe it.”

His passion for the sport, he concluded, is mysterious, emotional and ultimately undefinable.

Hartwig was recently notified he received a baseball scholarship from the University of Mary in Bismarck, N.D. Earlier, he had visited the university, where he toured the campus and met with coaches.

“I was thrilled to get that scholarship, but I didn’t expect it,” he said. “The college is a good, friendly environment, and I really liked the coaches. I met

them and we had a talk over lunch.”

The coaches, obviously, liked him too.

“They’d seen me play in a showcase (game) in Burnsville,” Hartwig said, and that, he thinks, might have led to their scholarship decision.

He will move to the North Dakota university next fall to study sports and leisure management.

Hartwig, 18, now in his third varsity year for the Sartell Sabres, is a third baseman and pitcher for the team. Last year, he hit two homeruns in games against Albany and Sauk Rapids.

As a tot, Hartwig loved to play T-ball and then, naturally, took an early liking to softball and baseball. He played in the Sartell Youth Baseball Association for years, starting in fifth grade as a member of a travel team.

The son of Ann and Steven Hartwig, Riley has two siblings – Blake, 15, a freshman, and Grace, 13, a seventh-grader.

Besides baseball, Hartwig enjoys football, hunting, fishing and just about any outdoor activity.

“It’s always been a goal of mine to play baseball at the college level,” he said.

That goal, that dream, is about to come true.



contributed photos

**Sartell Sabre Riley Hartwig slams a ball during a scrimmage game in the new U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis last spring. Hartwig is a third baseman and pitcher for the Sabres. Inset: Hartwig is happy he will be able to play collegiate baseball while studying at the Univesity of Mary in Bismarck, N.D. He received a baseball scholarship to attend that school and will start in fall 2018.**

## Paggen

from front page

a bouquet of roses was presented; and Paggen stood there crying.

“I cried like a baby,” she said. “I’ve never been so surprised. It was overwhelming.”

### Never late

Raised on a farm between St. Stephen and St. Wendel, Sandy Skroch graduated from Holdingford High School in 1972. The very next day, she started work at Stearns Manufacturing, then eight months later began work at Fingerhut in St. Cloud.

When Fingerhut closed in 2000, three men there bought a plastics division from the

company and opened what they dubbed Wiman Plastics in Sauk Rapids, named for (Wi)lliam and (Man)dy. The company produces huge rolls of various plastic sheeting that’s shipped out in giant semis to companies far and wide. The plastic is used to make a variety of products, many of them medical devices such as blood-pressure cuffs.

Paggen worked in the shipping department.

Many have asked Paggen how in the world did she manage never to be late for work in 45 years.

She attributes it to many factors: her solid central Minnesota work ethic; having to get up early to milk cows in her younger years; her love of the morning hours; her husband Ray’s tractor, snow bucket and his plowing out their long

driveway in the wee hours.

Many a slippery, foggy or snow-flurry morning, Paggen braved the roads to get to work, a 25-mile drive from home.

“Foggy mornings were the worst,” she recalled.

There’s another reason Paggen was never late for work, a reason she divulges in a computational whisper, followed by a mischievous giggle.

“Sometimes, OK, I’ll admit I fudged on the speed limit,” she said. “Sshhh!”

### New life

One of Paggen’s previous co-workers is Althea Heim of Sartell, who started work at Fingerhut just a few months after Paggen.

The two have been the best of friends ever since.

“Sandy has the best sense of humor,” Heim said of Paggen.

“She is my best friend ever,” Paggen said of Heim. “I like everything about her. A true friend – honest and loyal. Through(out) the years, we’ve been through so many weddings, births, baptisms, funerals.

Paggen asked Heim how she is going to cope with retirement.

Heim told her not to worry, that there will be plenty to do.

“It will be a whole ‘nother journey,” Heim said.

Paggen plans to do the simple things that make life a blessing, such as sitting on her porch in warm bright mornings, her cats and dogs all around, just watching the sun come up, sipping a cup of coffee, watching the flitting birds.

“Now I’ll be able to do that,”

she said. “I can sit there in my bathrobe and watch the sun come up.”

She will have more time for family, too.

She and Ray, a retired self-employed house builder, have three children: Danny, Nancy and Amanda. And they have four grandchildren: Paige, Lily, Sylvie and Wylie.

Two days after her birthday and retirement, Paggen was still pinching herself, still flabbergasted by the many surprises that were sprung on her out of the blue.

“Usually, nobody can pull the wool over my eyes,” she said. “Oh no! But that day they sure did. And more than once. It was a great shock of a day. But that’s OK because it was wonderful, so wonderful to be surprised by so many people I love.”



photo by Dennis Dalman

**Nestled in the back of the limousine, Sandy Paggen (right) can’t help but wonder what kind of other surprise her family and coworkers have in store for her. She found out later: many.**



photo by Dennis Dalman

**Sandy Paggen (center) reacts when she sees a white stretch limo pull up just before she prepares to leave Wiman Plastics on her last day of work. At right is Paggen’s best friend, Althea Heim.**



# Bentrud

from front page

wants to improve includes record-keeping, how the dispatching system works, sharing of data among departments and other agencies, and technology updates.

The problems of crime and crime prevention often involve mental-health issues, Bentrud emphasized. That is why law enforcement must develop a network with mental-health professionals and other agencies that could include referrals (or mandated) counseling, medications, medical treatments and so forth, Bentrud said.

“We are often interacting repeatedly with the same people, the same families, and there are often legal roadblocks to the sharing of information,” he said. “We have to improve that to open the lines of communication. I plan to contact legislators to work to eliminate some of those roadblocks.”

One of the biggest challenges to law enforcement is the increasing prevalence of sex trafficking in Minnesota, as well as elsewhere.

There have been more than 2,000 arrests for that crime in recent years in central Minnesota. At least a half dozen of the more violent offenders are now in prison. Sex trafficking is another reason, Bentrud said, that a multi-disciplinary, networking approach must be adopted and approved. That would include safe housing and counseling for victims

abused by pimps who use drugs, physical abuse and coercion against girls and women to get them to perform repeated sex acts with multiple paying “customers.”

That kind of multi-dimensional approach is already working. Bentrud said there is an excellent working relationship thanks to Stearns County Sheriff Don Gudmandson, who was appointed last year as interim sheriff to fill in for John Sanner, who retired. A recent killing in Waite Park was recently solved and the perpetrator arrested quickly in North Dakota because of swift communications among Waite Park and St. Cloud police departments and law enforcement personnel in North Dakota. Bentrud said he is still impressed by how well those almost instant communications happened to make the arrest. That particular incident involved a shooting death of a man in a Waite Park apartment by another man.

Bentrud said he is determined to strengthen all those kinds of connections in a holistic “community policing” concept in which all residents will pitch in to prevent crimes and to help solve them.

## About Bentrud

Dave Bentrud, 59, was born in Glenwood. He enrolled in the University of St. Thomas and later earned a master’s degree in criminal justice from St. Cloud State University.

For 16 years he served as a police officer on the St. Cloud Police Department, 10

of them as a sergeant. He has served on the Waite Park Police Department for 10 years.

His wife Beth is a para in the literacy program of Rice Elementary School. The family lives near Little Rock Lake in Rice, but Bentrud is in the process of selling the family home in Benton County and relocating to Stearns County during his run for sheriff.

The Bentruds have four children: Lucas, a sophomore at Bethel University; Cassie, who lives in Florida and works for Disney World; Allie, who lives in Bloomington; and Jared, a freshman at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School.

## Achievements

Bentrud said he is very proud of the work he and others have done to fight all forms of human trafficking not just in Waite Park but elsewhere in central Minnesota. A recent state grant will help create a permanent sex-trafficking task force with members from various local departments.

He is also proud the clearance rate for crimes in Waite Park improved by 8 percent since he became police chief.

“We have good initial reports, good investigations and good follow-ups,” he said. “I’m very proud of our team.”

Bentrud sums up modern law-enforcement work this way, emphasizing its holistic approach.

“We are no longer in our individual silos,” he said. “We are all in the same big sandbox, playing together.”

# Judge rules Fischbach can serve dual roles

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Michelle Fischbach can keep her state Senate seat while serving as lieutenant governor.

A Ramsey County District Court judge on Monday dismissed a lawsuit against Fischbach, a Republican who represents the Sartell and St. Joseph areas in District 13.

The lawsuit challenging the dual roles was premature, the judge wrote, until the Legislature starts on Feb. 20.

The judge dismissed the lawsuit without prejudice, which means a new one could be filed or the ruling could be appealed.

As president of the Senate, Fischbach automatically became lieutenant governor

when Gov. Mark Dayton named former Lt. Gov. Tina Smith to fill Al Franken’s U.S. Senate seat after he resigned.

The ruling **Fischbach** has political implications because Republicans hold a slim 34-33 seat advantage in the Senate. If the judge had ruled Fischbach had to give up her Senate seat, a special election would be needed.

Fischbach said she will not accept the lieutenant governor’s salary.



# Watab Park shelter gets go-ahead

by Dennis Dalman  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell City Council members expressed approval for a proposed picnic shelter to replace the old one at Watab Park.

The park-shelter plan was detailed for the council by architect Murray Mack (HMA Architects) and by Robbie Schultz, senior project manager of Winkelman Building Co.

The plan is to spend about \$356,00 in city money for a new shelter at Watab Park. The structure will be almost identi-

cal to the much-used shelter in Val Smith Park on Sartell’s east side. The steel and metal-roofed structure, with overhang, will include bathrooms and other amenities. It will be constructed on the same site where the current shelter stands. That shelter will be demolished, perhaps as early as this winter to prepare for a spring groundbreaking.

Council members said they like the plan. It will be paid for by a combination of the city’s park funds account and sales tax revenue.

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# Area students showcase learning



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Sartell Middle School Genius Team members (left to right) Matthew Ruder, 14; Burg McSorley, 11; and Ben Thompson, 11, demonstrate robotics Feb 8 during the Student Powered Conference at the Sartell Community Center. Sartell students were joined by students from Sauk Rapids, St. Cloud, and Little Falls in an effort to showcase learning. Various demonstrations took place all morning on topics which included 3D printing, robotics, drones, Minecraft, improvisation and more.



contributed photo

Arista Metz (left) and Brittney Zevnik from Just for Kix performed in the Super Bowl halftime show.

## Three locals perform at Super Bowl halftime

Several local people performed in the halftime show during Super Bowl LII on Feb. 4.

Joe Becker of Sartell performed with the University of Minnesota Marching Band. He is a sophomore studying music education and business. Becker is the son of Liz and Mike Simoneau.

Two women from Just for Kix danced in the 13-minute show. Director Brittney Zevnik and Studio Manager Arista

Metz performed with Justin Timberlake.

"We have been practicing for the past two weeks leading up to the event," Metz said in a press release. "Rehearsals could be as short as two hours or as long as seven hours. It all depended on what needed to be polished or what new staging we would add in that day. The last week of rehearsals, we basically got a free concert every night."

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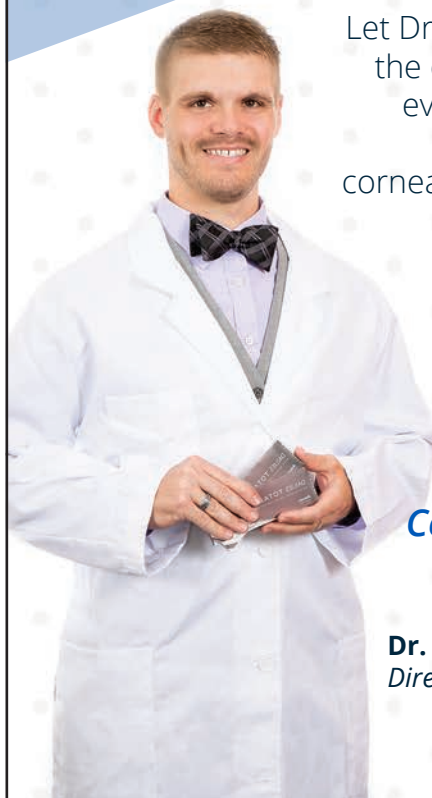
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# Abduction Awareness 2018

## Danger of (some) strangers

It can be a confusing concept for young people, as they are taught to trust some strangers and not others. Parents can protect their children from dangerous strangers by teaching them about suspicious behavior and what to do in the face of danger.

## Safe strangers

We all find ourselves in situations that require the help of a perfect stranger. Children are no exception to this rule.

Police officers, firefighters and teachers are safe strangers that our youth should be able to trust. Establish from a young age with your children the difference between dangerous and safe strangers. This will help them know where to turn in the face of danger or an emergency situation.

## Dangerous strangers

When educating your children on safe strangers, spend just as much time, if not more, discussing dangerous strangers.

These strangers are the people who your family doesn't know well. They will not always be easily identifiable like they are in the movies. It's important to tell children that not all strangers look scary or dangerous.

On their surface, strangers can appear quite unassuming and normal. Teaching children that strangers come in all shapes, sizes and appearances will help them remain vigilant around people they do not know, ultimately keeping them safe in all situations.

## Lost children

While you want to do everything in your power to prevent your child from becoming lost, it is even more important that children know what to do.

Make sure you talk with



your child about what she should do if she gets separated from you. She should understand from a very early age how and why to avoid strangers.

Have a way for children to identify themselves. If they are younger, have their information in their pocket or sewn into their clothing. As they get older, practice reciting your telephone number.

## A safety plan for kids

Remind your child to scream loudly and run away if he feels threatened by a stranger. Causing a scene attracts attention and makes dangerous people uncomfortable.

Teach them about behavior that is suspicious or unusual.

You should begin having these talks when your children are as young as a few years old. This can be a confusing concept and might take time to understand.

Continue teaching these principles as your child begins to distinguish which strangers they can trust and why.

## Understand context

Children are statistically more likely to be harmed by someone they know than by a stranger. It's important to define clear safety rules for your children when it comes to strangers, but also explain signs to look out for with people they do know — and be sure to set boundaries for who your children can be around and when.

Talk to them in a way that encourages caution and safety, without instilling undue fear.

## Use examples, Participation

Merely telling children about safety or showing them what to do is not enough. When we just talk to children about danger, their raised awareness can actually raise their level of anxiety.

Young people learn best by actively participating.

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# Council OKs road project, with some qualms

by Dennis Dalman

editor@thenewsleaders.com

If all goes well, Benton CR 29 in east Sartell will be a brand-new road by May 31, 2019.

As so many motorists know all too well, that busy road needs work. It's the one that leads from the Sartell bridge east to Hwy. 15. It goes past Country Manor on the south and Val Smith Park and Evergreen Village Mobile Home Park on the north.

At its Jan. 22 meeting, the Sartell City Council gave the nod to the project, although a "no-parking" provision of the agreement was approved by a 3-2 vote, with members Mike Chisum and Dave Peterson voting no. Both of those council members have a cautious "wait-and-see" opinion about the "no-parking provision." Once the roadway is redone, the plan is to have no parking along the north side of CR 29, where lots of motorists now park for the many activities at Val Smith Park, even though the park has some parking facilities.

The council, including Peterson and Chisum, are hoping parking can be resolved, perhaps by expanding parking spaces on the Val Smith Park parking lots.

Council member Peterson also

expressed concerns about drainage from the Val Smith Park area that, he said, might be worsened by the road project.

At the Jan. 22 council meeting, the road project was outlined by Benton County Public Works Director Chris Byrd.

## The plan

Benton County plans a reconstruction of CR 29 from the east side of the Sartell bridge to Hwy. 15, a stretch of about one-half mile.

It will be a county project with help from Sartell.

Estimated to cost about \$6.7 million, Sartell will pay about \$2.4 million of that amount, mainly for utilities projects and rights-of-way costs (about \$60,000).

## Project details

The new CR 29 is expected to improve intersection mobility, with a streamlined option for turns at the extremely busy intersection of CR 29 and Benton Country Drive at the southeast corner of the former Sartell paper mill.

It will still be a two-lane road, but there will be a center lane for left and right turns. The curbs will be widened by two feet on

each side, and current sidewalks will be redone.

There will be a light signal system installed at the CR 29/Benton Drive intersection right at the east side of the bridge, with options for left and right turns to ease traffic back-up, which has been rampant at that intersection during post-work hours.

The project also involves, at city expense, new utility lines (water main, sanitary sewer) in that area, which includes new lines buried more deeply under the former paper-plant property and a rearrangement of utility lines in a neighborhood just north of CR 29.

There will also be two ponds – a retention one and an infiltration one in the Val Smith Park/neighborhood. Council member Peterson, who lives in that area of east Sartell, said he is concerned about flooding in that area unless the project anticipates and solves the water run-off problems.

## Time frame

Benton County plans to start the CR 29 reconstruction project May 14, 2018. The final completion is expected to be at the end of May 2019.

# Council makes appointments for 2018

by Dennis Dalman

editor@thenewsleaders.com

At a recent meeting, the Sartell City Council agreed to approve appointments for 2018 that include assignments to boards, committees and subcommittees; the city's financial depositories; and official newspapers.

The *Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader* and/or the *St. Cloud Times* were named official newspapers for Sartell. The Sartell Developer/Planner explained to the council the *St. Cloud Times* was included because during two weeks of the year the *Newsleader* is not published. Each year, cities choose official newspapers in which to print their legal notices and other city information. For website publication, the council designated the *Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader* website for online publication in 2018.

The city will deposit its funds this year among the following: US Bank, Wells Fargo, Bremer Bank, Liberty Sav-

ings Bank, BankVista, LMC 4M Fun/PMA Financial Network,, Sentry Bank, Falcon National Bank, Great River Federal Credit Union, Plaza Park Bank, TD Ameritrade, Ehlers Investment Partners and St. Cloud Federal Credit Union.

There were very few changes to those who currently serve on boards, committees and subcommittees.

Changes include the City Facilities Committee on which council member Mike Chisum will serve with Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll serving as an alternate. Chisum will replace council member Pat Lynch on that committee. Council member Ryan Fitzthum will stay on the committee; Nicoll was also on the committee but will serve in 2018 as an alternate only.

## Other changes

St. Cloud Area Planning Organization: Council member David Peterson agreed to serve on it as a full member in 2018 in place of

Council • page 9

# Hamster

## from front page

who has all sorts of adventures in the classroom and is taken home by the students. Because the story involves a class pet, the pet shop was a hint about the series.

Sartell-St. Stephen Instructional Coaches Laura Arndt and Dawn Gent work with teacher teams at the schools to choose a book, plan activities for students and families and create the reading schedule for the book.

During February, students have a chance to answer trivia questions, learn new vocabulary words and discuss the events and book characters each day at school.

"I'm excited. I think this will be a good book," said Pine

Meadow second-grader Lyla Durrwachter.

"I love Humphrey, he's so entertaining," said Pine Meadow Elementary kindergartner Elinor Pangerl.

Pangerl was excited to officially join One District, One Book, in which her older sister had participated.

Families are encouraged to read the book according to the following reading schedule: Feb. 2-Chapter 1, Feb. 5-Chapter 2, Feb. 6-Chapter 3, Feb. 8-Chapter 4, Feb. 9-Chapter 5, Feb. 12-Chapter 6, Feb.13-Chapter 7, Feb. 15-Chapter 8, Feb. 16-Chapter 9, Feb. 19-Chapter 10, Feb. 20-Chapter 11, Feb. 22-Chapter 12, Feb. 23-Chapter 13, Feb. 26-Chapter 14, and Feb. 27-Chapter 15.

They are also encouraged to participate in related activities at home and at school throughout the month of February. Oth-

er people in the area are also encouraged to get a copy of the book and read along with the students.

The program is funded through the Sartell-St. Stephen Education Foundation.

The One District, One Book program evolved from a program created by the Read to Them non-profit organization in 2009. The organization's mission is to create a culture of literacy in every home.

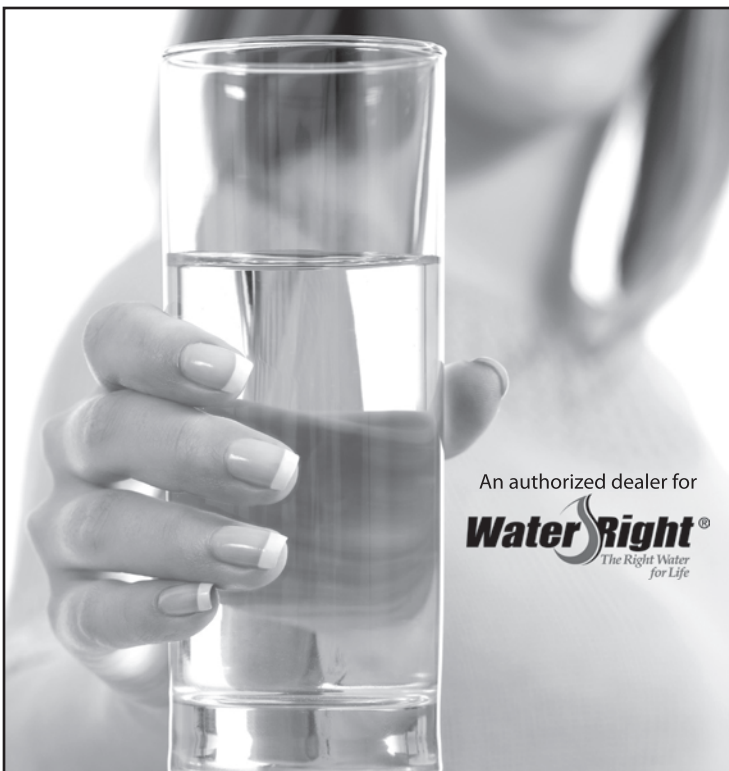
Kleppe said the Sartell-St. Stephen district joined the St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids-Rice school districts to read the same book in 2015-16 and each district chose their own book in 2016-17.

To view videos of this year's reveal for *The World According to Humphrey* and other information visit: <https://www.sartell.k12.mn.us/announcements>.



contributed photo

Oak Ridge Elementary School staff (left to right) Connie Connor, student support services/social worker; Laura Arnt, instructional coach/co-lead of One District, One Book; Paul Moe, instructional technology specialist; and Kip Lynk, principal, wheel books for each classroom on the day of the big reveal of *The World According to Humphrey*.



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Parents and players are encouraged to attend.

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# Cookie Monster happy; Girl Scouts selling cookies

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

It’s the Cookie Monster’s favorite time of year, the time when Girl Scout cookies are being sold coast to coast.

“Me want cookie!” says the Cookie Monster. “Me eat cookie!”

And that’s just about what so many Girl Scouts are hearing from people, from customers: “I’ve just got to have some Girl Scout cookies; I love those cookies.”

Sartell Girl Scout Hattie Dietz said selling the cookies is fun because it makes her happy that people enjoy them so much. Hattie likes them as much as her customers do. The Dietzes keep the big stash of Girl Scout cookies in their van, dubbed the “Cookie Mobile,” locked in the garage so they won’t be tempted to eat too many.

Dietz, the daughter of Trina and Eric Dietz, is a fifth-grader at St. Francis Xavier Elementary School. She has been a Girl Scout since kindergarten and is now one of four girls in the junior level of Sartell Troop 937. There are many more girls in the other levels.

On Feb. 4, Hattie and her mother set up a booth inside Cash Wise East in St. Cloud where Hattie happily sold dozens of boxes of cookies.

One of her customers was Audrey Anderson of Sartell, who smiled with delight as she pushed her grocery cart up to the cookie booth.

“Oh, Girl Scout cookies!” she exclaimed, grinning.

She paused, trying to make up her mind . . .

“Oh, yes, chocolate! I love chocolate,” she said, pointing, “So I’ve got to have some of those.”

Thin Mints and Peanut Butter Patties are the top sellers, Hattie noted.

Hattie’s mother is always amazed and amused by people’s reactions to the stacked boxes of cookies.

Most people, she said, know exactly what they are at the first split-second glance.

“The cookies are a tradition for most people,” Trina said. “It’s a seasonal tradition, and people feel about Girl Scout cookies the way they feel about strawberries or raspberries in season. They want some because they know the cookies are a limited-time item.”

So far, in just a few days, Hattie has sold (as of Feb. 4) 185 boxes of the cookies, and she hopes to sell 75 more boxes, at least.

From total sales, each Girl Scout gets to keep some of the profits. Hattie plans to use her share to cover the cost of attending a Girl Scout camp in the Boundary Waters area come summer.

This year, sales of cookies will end March 11, though some scouts will still be able to sell any they may still have on hand.

## Background

This is the 101st year of Girl Scout cookie sales, a fundraising tradition that began in Muskogee, Okla., when mothers of the Mistletoe Troop girls

baked sugar cookies to sell in the school’s cafeteria.

The Girl Scouts organization was founded 106 years ago.

Last year, there were 6,631 scouts grades K-12 in the Girl Scouts Lakes and Pines Council, a region that covers a wide area of central and northern Minnesota all the way up to the Canadian border and including a part of northwestern Wisconsin. That council is one of 112 in the nation.

Of the total scouts in the Lakes and Pines Council (6,631), 4,348 scouts sold cookies last year – close to a million boxes sold. The average number of boxes sold per scout was 232. That same number of boxes, about 1 million, will likely be sold this year, too, said Tauna Quimby, director of marketing and customer care for the Lakes and Pines Council.

Profits from sales are used for service projects and council operations, and each girl gets a portion she can spend for programs, camps or anything she wants.

Quimby has been with that council for 20 years. Year after year, she is pleased by customers and their loyalty to the cookies. They can be fiercely loyal to their favorite kinds of cookies, Quimby said. Thin Mints has been the No. 1 favorite for decades, she said during an interview with the *Newsleader*. Last year, a cookie called S’mores was introduced and outsold any first-time cookie in a century of sales. But S’mores are yet to topple Thin Mints from its pinnacle. Other kinds of cookies are Caramel



photo by Dennis Dalman

**Audrey Anderson of Sartell (right) prepares to buy a box of Girl Scout cookies from Hattie Dietz, also of Sartell. Hattie spent two hours Feb. 4 selling the cookies at Cash Wise East, St. Cloud.**

DeLites, Lemonades, Samoas, Shortbread Trefoils, Savannah Smiles, Toffee-tastic, Peanut Butter Patties and Peanut Butter Sandwich.

The cookies for this region are baked at ABC Bakers in North Sioux City, South Dakota. Fresh from the oven and packaged, they are then shipped to warehouses, dubbed “cookie cupboards,” far and wide, including the St. Cloud area, where the scouts and their families pick them up.

## Online sales

Girl Scout cookies can be purchased online. Visit [girlscoutcookies.org](http://girlscoutcookies.org).

## Fun facts

•Girl Scouts sell at least \$700 million-worth of cookies annually, making it the largest girl-

led business in the nation.

•ABC Bakers (founded in Richmond, Virginia) has been a licensed Girl Scout cookie baker since 1937. Now in North Sioux City, it is one of two bakeries that make the cookies, the other is Little Brownie Bakery of Louisville, Kentucky.

•In 1985, one aggressive go-getter, Girl Scout Elizabeth Brinton of Falls Church, Virginia, sold a knock-out number of cookies – 11,200 boxes of them in one season. When customers would pull out checkbooks to pay for them, Brinton would ask, as if daring them, “Why not buy a whole case of them?” And many of them did just that.

•Throughout the years, many new kinds of cookies proved to be duds, including a vanilla cream-strawberry flavor and a cinnamon-flavored kind.

# Council

from page 8

Ryan Fitzthum. Peterson in 2017 was an alternate member on the APO. Other members from the Sartell City Council on that organization for 2018 will be current members Mayor Nicoll, council member Chisum and alternate member Lynch.

Sartell-LeSauk Joint Planning Commission: The council agreed three of its peers will serve on the commission – Chisum, Fitzthum (who already is on the joint commission) and Lynch. Peterson will be an alternate. The Sartell Planning Commission will choose two alternates to serve on the joint commission.

For a complete list of city appointees, go to the Sartell City website at [www.sartellmn.com](http://www.sartellmn.com), then scroll down and on the right click on “View City Council Agendas, Minutes, Packets and Videos.” Then scroll down to Jan. 8, 2018, click on “Packet Information” and scroll down until “2018 Appointments” appears.

# Council sets 2018 meeting schedule

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

Precise times and dates for Sartell City Council meetings throughout 2018 were approved by the council at its Jan. 8 meeting.

Joint meetings and/or other special meetings can be added throughout the year if the need should arise. Generally, the council meets only once a month in the summer, although last year a special second meeting was required in July. Thus, the schedule does lend some flexibility.

All regularly scheduled council meetings will, as before, begin at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays of each month (except May through August). Please note in the following list the second Monday of summer months are listed but no

meetings will take place on those dates unless the need arises. Also please note there is only one meeting listed for May, although another meeting might have to be added. The fourth Monday in May falls on a holiday, Memorial Day. There will be only one meeting in December.

Jan. 8 and 22 and Feb. 12 (already completed); Feb. 26; March 12 and 26; April 9 and 23; May 14; June 11 and 25; July 9 and 23; Aug. 13 and 27; Sept. 10 and 24; Oct. 8 and 22; Nov. 12 and 26; and Dec. 10.

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# Extra day added to library-locker system

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

The outreach locker-library system at the Sartell Community Center will soon get an added delivery day each week, Friday as well as Tuesday.

The locker system allows Sartell residents to order materials from the St. Cloud-based Great River Regional Library system via Internet. Those items are then delivered by GRRL staff to secure lockers in the community center. Patrons can then pick up those materials and drop them off for pick-up.

Previously, the Sartell City Council authorized \$16,000 per

year for one-day delivery service to the locker system. However, demand for locker-delivery of GRRL library materials is running 50 to 60 percent above what was expected.

To add a second day of delivery each week (Friday), which would free up locker spaces, will cost an extra \$2,600 per year.

At its Jan. 22 meeting, city council members agreed that is a reasonable cost for a service residents are using. If user demand continues, another delivery date could be added in the future and perhaps more locker space could be added to the Sartell Community Center, said Sartell Administrator/Financial Director Mary Degiovanni.

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# Opinion

## Our View Time to turn talk into productive action

Suspicion, fear, anger, even hate.

When change and challenges confront us, those reactions sometimes follow.

We're again hearing white nationalist and anti-immigrant sentiment across central Minnesota including recent posters on the St. Cloud State University campus and in St. Joseph.

Last week, the St. Joseph City Council backed a motion to build "a friendly, inclusive and safe community for all who live, work and visit here."

How do those sentiments become actions that produce results?

A report from the Pew Research Center found divisions between Republicans and Democrats on fundamental values – including immigration and race – are wider than ever.

Twenty years ago, when people were asked their opinions on political issues, the graphed responses looked like a mountain. That is, most people landed somewhere in the middle. Now, that same graph looks like a valley with tall peaks on both extremes of the political spectrum.

How can we turn that partisan antipathy into trust and cooperation?

We need local leaders to build relationships among people so society functions effectively.

Those leaders don't necessarily need to be elected officials. We can look to community groups, religious leaders or business people to take action. And there are some actions we can take one-on-one to develop new friendships or strengthen existing ones.

The key is to reach out to people you don't know or who don't share your political views. Experts suggest activities organized around food, doing someone a favor, discussions of community issues or working toward a joint goal.

Cultural Bridges, a St. Joseph community group formed to help immigrants feel welcome, suggested a community meal where people share a favorite dish, a forum where participants can talk about immigration, education and housing, and tutoring or mentoring new residents.

Community forums must be based on respect – respect for others' opinions but also respect for facts. For example, state statistics show while Minnesota has fewer immigrants proportionally than many other parts of the country, foreign-born residents are an increasingly important part of the state economy. Since 2010, more than half of the state's labor-force growth has come from foreign-born workers who are providing a stream of fresh workers at a time when baby boomers are exiting the labor force in large numbers.

As individuals, we can ask some questions too: When was the last time you shared a meal with a person of a different race or ethnicity? When was the last time you attended a church of a different faith? How many of your social media friends hold a different political view? Have you worked on a community project in the last year? Do you vote in every election? When was the last time you attended a meeting of your local city council or town board?

To be truly welcoming and inclusive, we need to act, not just talk.

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.

## How will 2018 be remembered?

Protests in the streets. Cries of racism. Conflict in Asia and the Middle East. Chaos in Washington.

A description of 2018? Maybe. But that also describes 50 years ago....1968.

Commentators have compared this year to 50 years ago as a time of political chaos and civic strife. In 50 years, will people look back on 2018 as another turning point in history?

Fifty years is a nice marker in the timeline of history to a year of events that shape us even today.

There was potential for war on the Korean peninsula when in January the North seized a spy ship, the U.S.S. Pueblo.

Minnesota Sen. Eugene McCarthy, born in Watkins and educated at St. John's University, challenged President Johnson to end the Vietnam War. By the end of March, Johnson decided against running for re-election.

Mike  
Knaak  
*Editor*



The year proved to be the deadliest in the Vietnam war with 16,899 Americans killed including 322 from Minnesota and six from Stearns County.

Sen. Robert Kennedy entered the presidential race and McCarthy faded.

Then Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who had increasingly spoken out against the war and poverty, was murdered in Memphis.

Kennedy looked like he was on the way to the Democratic nomination before he too was assassinated after winning the California primary.

Another Minnesotan, former senator and Johnson's vice president,

Hubert Humphrey narrowly lost the election to Nixon who had seeded his campaign with the same racist code words we hear today. Humphrey's nomination in Chicago was perhaps fatally damaged when the Chicago cops violently tried to control anti-war protesters.

1968 was an important year in my personal story too. My family moved to St. Cloud in January and I attended North Junior High School. My interest in the news started from watching those historic events. I decided I wanted a career in journalism.

Perhaps my most lasting memory of 1968 happened on Christmas. The astronauts of Apollo 8 circled the moon on Christmas Eve and beamed the video back to Earth as they read from the Bible.

A year of death, strife, conflict and fear ended with the hope of exploration and discovery.

### Letter to the editor

## Reader advocates meat-free diet of Lent should extend all year

Sami Nicholson, Sartell

Feb. 14 marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day period before Easter, when Christians abstain from animal foods in remembrance of Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the wilderness.

The call to abstain from eating animals is as current as the teaching of evangelical leader Franklin Graham, yet as traditional as the Bible (Genesis 1:29). Methodist founder John Wesley, Salvation Army pio-

neers William and Catherine Booth and Seventh-day Adventist Church founder Ellen G. White all followed this higher call.

A meat-free diet is not just about Christian devotion. Dozens of medical studies have linked consumption of animal products with elevated risk of heart failure, stroke, cancer and other killer diseases. A United Nations report named meat production as the largest source of greenhouse gases and water pollution. Undercov-

er investigations have documented farm animals routinely caged, crowded, mutilated and beaten.

Today's supermarkets are well in tune with the call to abstain from eating animals. They offer a rich array of plant-based meats, milks, cheeses and ice creams, as well as the more traditional vegetables, fruits and grains. Entering "vegetarian" or "vegan" in your favorite search engine provides lots of meat-replacement products, recipes and transition tips.

## Yes, Virginia, we do turn into our parents

Dennis  
Dalman  
*Editor*



cracks, playing practical jokes, having fun, loving life.

But when trouble came – watch out! – it barged in with baggage, like a dreaded uncle. Dad was a St. Cloud auto mechanic and a musician and played in old-time bands. He didn't make a lot of money. Mom was an elementary-school teacher who quit teaching shortly after meeting dad. She was a stay-at-home mom for most of her life.

Like many other parents in our working-class southside neighborhood, dad and mom had to pinch pennies, struggle to pay bills and use improvisatory genius to fix broken things in the house since we couldn't afford repair bills. One day, dad was trying to fix something to do with our living room's kerosene stove. All of a sudden the stovepipe had some kind of seizure, belching a gush of pitch-black soot into the living room and right onto dad's face. He looked just like Louis Armstrong. Without the trumpet.

"What! NEXT?!" he said, sputtering, followed by a cascade of curses.

"Look at the floor, the walls!" mom exclaimed.

"Look at me!" dad shouted at her.

"What about me?!"

We kids all burst out laughing, although it took dad awhile to see any humor in the soot-black situation. When he did, finally, he laughed harder than the rest of us.

Those were the kinds of mini-disasters that so often happened in our house: pipes freezing, windows breaking, no hot water, hand-me-down appliances on the blink.

"NOW what?" I can still hear mom say when her old Maytag wringer wash machine would act up. "If it isn't one thing, (sigh) it's another! Always something."

Mom was forever telling us kids to stop and think. Every time we did something naughty or stupid, which was quite often, she would say sharply, wagging a finger, "Alright, you kids, just stop and think!"

And, of course, we little hellions did not stop, we did not think.

Not a day goes by but what I don't hear my parents as if they're in the room next to me as I'm channeling them.

"What's this world coming to?!"

I've been saying that a lot lately as this world – at least on some days – seems to be going to hell in a hand-basket.

And if my parents were still among us, all of us – all of the Dalmans – would be saying in a chorus of woe: "What NEXT?! WHAT. is. This. World. COMING To?!"



# Newsleaders’ Dalman wins MNA awards

by Vicki Ikeogu  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Ever since he was little, Dennis Dalman had a nose for news.

“I always loved newspapers,” he said. “Even as I kid. I would get the *St. Cloud Times* and be all excited to read it. I loved the smell of the paper and the ink on my fingers. I guess I was a newspaper, bookworm nerd.”

So, for Dalman, it was natural for him to progress from reading about the news to being on the front lines of storytelling.

This year, Dalman’s storytelling work, covering the news for both the *St. Joseph Newsleader* and the *Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader*, has earned him recognition among his peers.

At the 151st annual Minnesota Newspaper Association awards banquet held late last month, Dalman received three awards for his work with the *Newsleaders*.



Dalman

He received both first and second place in breaking news coverage for weekly newspapers with a circulation of 2,501 to 5,000 with his coverage of tragic developments in the Jacob Wetterling case and third place in the Herman Roe Editorial Writing award for his column titled “Don’t let knife attack fuel climate of suspicion.”

The entries were judged by members of the Illinois Press Association.

Dalman’s first-place award was for the story “Wetterling asked abductor: ‘What did I do wrong?’”

After Danny Heinrich abducted Jacob, placed him in his car and handcuffed him, Jacob asked his abductor, “What did I do wrong?” Heinrich later revealed that to investigators.

“I watched the press conference and I remember bursting into tears hearing that,” Dalman said. “That was the most heart-breaking thing.”

It took Dalman about four days to complete the story.

“It was emotionally exhausting for me and I’m just a journalist,” he said. “I can’t imagine what the family was going

through.”

His second-place award was for “Dots always pointed to Heinrich as abductor,” a story about how investigators, in hind-sight, missed many connective dots years ago when Heinrich was a person of interest in the case. The contest judges called Dalman’s story “innovatively bold.”

“I was seething when I wrote that story,” Dalman said.

His third-place column, written after the 2016 knife attack at Crossroads Center, was touted by judges as “a brave stance in the face of a nightmare situation. One can imagine this voice is an important one in the community.”

In his editorial, Dalman wrote about the need for all people to lower levels of fear, suspicion, prejudice and hatred that sometimes follow acts of violence by deranged individuals.

To Dalman, this opinion summed up a lot of feelings.

“You’ve got to stand up against (hateful) stuff like that (fear, prejudice, hatred),” he said. “You’ve got to say no, no, no.”

In the past, Dalman has been recognized by the MNA for his

human-interest stories, columns, investigative reporting and best explanation of newspaper operations-and-ethics during his tenure at the *Echo Press* in Alexandria, prior to coming to the *Newsleaders* in 1998.

“It’s really gratifying to be recognized by one’s own peers,” Dalman said. “I feel really good about it. It was like the frosting on a cake. But I’m not done yet.”

Dalman, 70, has moved on from the *Newsleaders’* editor desk to retirement. It was a torch he recently passed to former *St. Cloud Times* Consumer Experience and Planning Director Mike Knaak.

But he has no intentions of putting down his pen anytime soon. He will continue as a part-time freelance writer for the *Newsleaders*.

“To me, the point of news reporting is to give a voice to the voiceless, the ones who lack economic power, the ones who are ignored,” he said. “It’s always gratifying to win awards as they are an indication of the good work I’ve done. But you don’t write stories for awards. Because if you do, you’re not doing it right.”

## — PUBLIC NOTICE —

### CITY OF SARTELL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**ON WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN PART TWO**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That the Sartell City Council will hold a public hearing in the council chambers of the Sartell City Hall at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on Monday, the 26th day of February, 2018, to consider adoption of the Wellhead Protection Plan Part Two.

/s/ Mary Degiovanni  
Administrator

Publish: Feb. 16, 2018

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School is  
in Session

## 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.

**Friday, Feb. 16**  
**Benton County Museum**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.  
**Nun Banquet** supporting Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity, hosted by the Sisters of the Order of St. Ben-

edict, 4:30-7 p.m., St. Benedict’s Monastery Dinning Room, St. Benedict’s Monastery, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, 320-363-7142.

**Fish fry**, sponsored by St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 4:30-8 p.m., American Legion of St. Joseph, 101 W. Minnesota St.

**St. Cloud Singles Club Dance**, 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

**Saturday, Feb. 17**  
**Community Meal**, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell.

**25th annual Ice Fishing Contest**, sponsored by the St. Joseph Rod and

Gun Club, noon-2:30 p.m., Kramer Lake. 320-363-8803 or 320-251-2881.

**Monday, Feb. 19**  
**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.

**Tuesday, Feb. 20**  
**Community Lunch and Entertainment**, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-2 p.m., St. Stephen Parish Hall, 103 CR 2 S. 320-746-9960.

**St. Cloud Area Genealogists meeting**, 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum,

235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org.

**Wednesday, Feb. 21**  
**S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together)**, 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S., Sartell.

**Conversation with a Cardiologist**, featuring Dr. Benjamin Johnson, 6-7 p.m., Windfeldt Room at the ContraCare Health Plaze, 1900 CentraCare Circle, St. Cloud, 320-251-2700 ext. 71391.

**Thursday, Feb. 22**  
**Coffee and Conversation**, featuring Iditarod Trail Dog Sled Race volunteer Jasper Bond, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

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

**Friday, Feb. 23**  
**Benton County Museum**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

**Saturday, Feb. 24**  
**Sartell’s Red Carpet**, presented by the Sartell Chamber of Commerce in partnership with PineCone Vision Center, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

**Craft/Vendor Sale**, hosted by Epic Events, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Cloud Eagles Club, 730 41st Ave. N.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
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Webster County Fair Grounds. Info contact Al Little @ 515-570-0827. (MCN)

**Dubuque Boat & RV Show:** Fri., Feb. 23, 24 & 25. Grand River Center, Dubuque, IA. Over 20 different RV & Boat makes and models. www.dubuqueboatandrvshow.com (MCN)

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# SFX celebrates Catholic Schools Week

by Cori Hilsgen  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Students, teachers and staff at St. Francis Xavier Elementary School recently celebrated National Catholic Schools Week Jan. 28-Feb. 3 with many fun-filled activities.

Principal Kathy Kockler said the week is a fun reminder of the school's Catholicism.

During the week, SFX students and staff celebrated with an all-school bingo event, a Drop Everything and Read event, a Catholic Mass with other area Catholic schools, shared an acting skit put on by staff, learned about vocations and the global world by sharing the journey of the Rev. Michael Peterson as a monk/priest from St. John's Abbey and Sister Kateri Ludick from Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church order and more.

Peterson shared his vocation story and shared his music through American Indian wooden flutes.

Kockler said students were mesmerized and captivated by his story and music.

Kockler said Peterson said it was enjoyable for him to visit with the students at SFX.

Sister Kateri Ludick, Sisters of Charity of Our Lady Mother of the Church, thanked Kockler for allowing her to visit the school.

"It was a great experience and the students and teachers are so sweet," Ludick said. "I was touched by their blessings and so

grateful to have spent that time with them."

A Good Deed Wagon was passed on to people as good deeds were recorded. Some of the good deeds included helping a friend pick up items that fell out of a can, helping clean up the table from the cafeteria, washing the white boards without being asked, holding the door open for others in the morning and more.

"Catholic Schools Week is a fun, exciting, upbeat, faith-filled way to explore how amazing our school community and church really are for all," Kockler said.

Some sixth-grade students commented about the week.

"It was very fun," Annie Supan said.

"Little homework," Blake Fleege said.

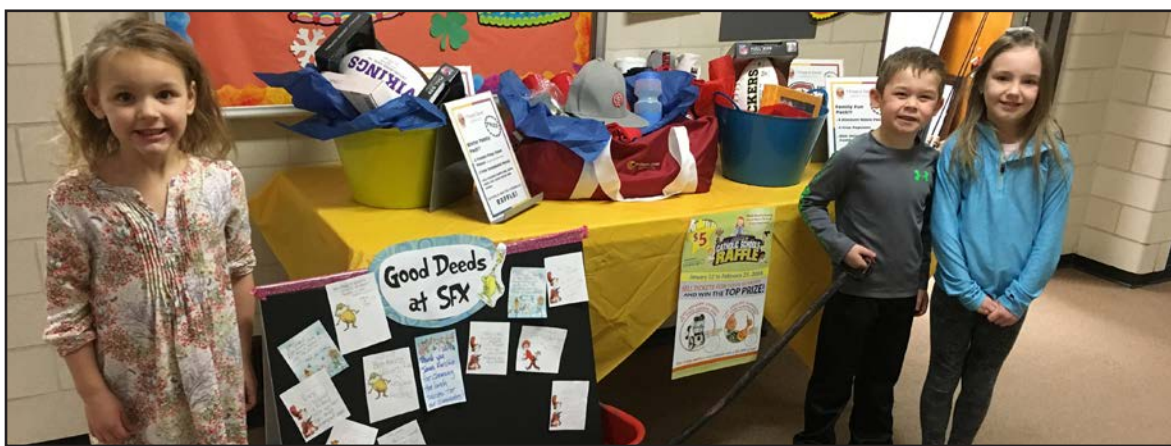
"Cinnamon rolls - yum," Mad-die Halstrom said.

"I like going to a Catholic school because the teachers are good," Zach Stolzenburg said.

"I liked that we got to get together with our friends and celebrate how lucky we are to be at a Catholic school." Breanna Kurowski said.

Catholic Schools Weeks is a joint project of the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"We are grateful to celebrate a national event with others from around the country," Kockler said.



contributed photos

St. Francis Xavier Elementary School students (left to right) Gracelynn Jordahl, Bennett Engdahl and Ava Johnson help with the Good Deed Wagon. Students noted when others did good deeds and passed the wagon on to others.



St. Francis Xavier Elementary School kindergarten students (left to right) Jaiden Schwegle, Grady Supan, Mikayla Albers, Bodyn Molitor and William Boerger (hands only) work on a science, technology, engineering and mathematics project building igloos after studying cultures, design and function of houses.

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