

# Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader

Friday, Feb. 23, 2018  
Volume 23, Issue 8  
Est. 1995

## Town Crier

### St. John's Boys' Choir to perform Masterworks

The St. John's Boys' Choir boys lend their pristine voices to the classical music of master composers enriched by the beautiful acoustics of the Great Hall at St. John's University. Soprano Patricia Kent joins the boys as they explore works from the Renaissance to the 20th century. Hear selections from the Mozart *Solemn Vespers*, Pergolesi *Stabat Mater* and a full performance of the Vivaldi *Gloria*. Performance is at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 4 in the Great Hall, SJU. To order tickets and learn more, visit [www.sjbchoir.org](http://www.sjbchoir.org) or call 320-363-2558.

### 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).

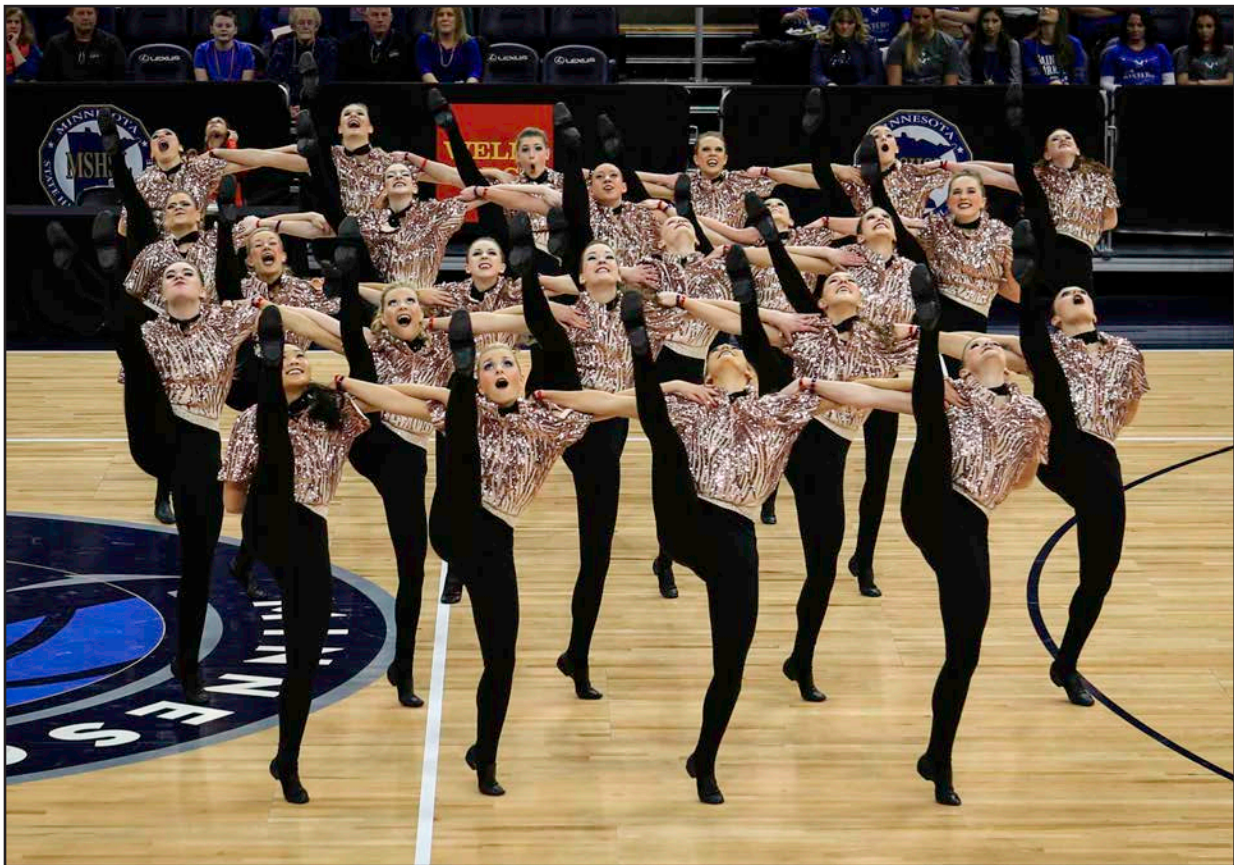
### Swing Dance set Feb. 26 at SHS

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 HS 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.

### Whitney advisory board seeks applicants

The city of St. Cloud is seeking applicants for the advisory board of Whitney Senior Center at 1527 Northway Drive. Its mission is to provide life-long learning opportunities, recreation, socialization, health and fitness that promotes aging in place to residents ages 55 and older in a nondiscriminatory inclusive manner. Citizens can pick up an application to the St. Cloud Boards and Commissions at Whitney Senior Center or City Hall. It's also available online at [www.ci.stcloud.mn.us](http://www.ci.stcloud.mn.us) Applications will be accepted through March 5 and should be turned in to the mayor's office.

## Sartell repeats as high-kick champs



by Mike Knaak  
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Sartell-St. Stephen High School's dance team successfully defended its 2017 high-kick title at this year's State Dance Team Tournament on Feb. 16-17 in Minneapolis.

The Sabres won their second consecutive championship in the Class AA high-kick contest on Saturday.

The title was the team's fourth in high kick.

The Sabres won third place in the jazz competition on Friday.

The team is coached by Kelly McCarney.

contributed photo  
**Sartell-St. Stephen High School's dance team repeated as state high-kick champions.**

## Dickhaus runs for Stearns sheriff

*(Editor's note: Two candidates have announced plans to run for Stearns County sheriff. This week Lt. Robert Dickhaus of the Stearns County Sheriff's Office is profiled. Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud was featured in the Feb. 9 edition.)*

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

In the 28 years of his law-enforcement career, Lt. Robert Dickhaus, a Melrose resident, has served in so many diverse jobs he is confident he would make a

good choice for Stearns County sheriff.

Dickhaus recently announced his candidacy for that position and has begun campaigning for the Nov. 6 election. Thus far, Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud is also vying for the sheriff job.

Dickhaus has been with the Stearns County Sheriff's Department for 25 years. He is currently a patrol lieu-



Dickhaus

tenant and now serves as administrative assistant for the department's patrol division. He began his career in 1990 as a police officer with the Richmond Police Department, then later joined the Cold Spring Police Department. Then, one day in 1993, then-sheriff Jim Kostreba called Dickhaus and asked him if he was still interested in working with the Stearns Sheriff's Department. Dickhaus leaped at the chance and joined.

"It was always what I wanted most to do," he said during an interview with

the *Newsleader*. "That was always my goal."

His first job was as a correctional officer for the department. In 1995, he was promoted to senior patrol officer. Since then he has held the positions of patrol deputy, patrol sergeant, detective and detective-deputy medical examiner. He became patrol lieutenant in 2012.

In 2008, Dickhaus became communications supervisor in charge of the 911 center and its 24 full-time operators. During that time, he

Dickhaus • page 7

## Apple Duathlon adds new event

by Vicki Ikeogu  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

In just a few short months hundreds of multisport athletes will be lacing up their running shoes and checking over their bikes as they prepare to participate in the 36th annual Apple Duathlon.

"It's one of the most well-known duathlons in the country," said Joel Dahlin, Apple Duathlon board member.

Hosted during Memorial Day weekend, the Apple Duathlon tests multisport athletes with a 5K run, a 33K bike ride and another 5K run to the finish.

And this year, Dahlin hopes to attract even more local participants with the event's new sprint race.

"It's just for fun," he said. "We are

just trying to make a new race to hopefully get new people involved and for older people who don't want to do the full distance anymore."

Unlike the regular Apple, the sprint race is quite a bit shorter. Athletes will run the first 5K with the rest of the Apple participants and will start the bike portion off with them. However, Dahlin said, the sprint race participants will take a much shorter bike course, ending their race with a 15.5K bike ride.

"We find that some people feel intimidated by the big, long course," Dahlin said. "So, we are trying to get new people into the multisport. We think it's a good introductory race for them. We are going to try to make the whole event friendly for first-timers."

Apple Duathlon festivities kick off

Apple • page 4



photo by Vicki Ikeogu

**Apple Duathlon board member Joel Dahlin talks about the new sprint race set to debut at the 2018 Apple Duathlon.**



## People



contributed photo

The SAYBA Eighth-Grade C team competed in the Becker Bulldogs basketball tournament the weekend of Feb. 17 and won the consolation championship beating teams from Big Lake and Mahtomedi. Team members include the following: (front row, left to right) Mason Dulski, Tim Andrews, Will Hoekstra and Dylan Welle; and (back row) Jackson Vos, Anthony Berndt, Dylan Zulkosky, Jason Hager and Cameron Huse.



contributed photo

The Sartell club table tennis team competed at the team state tournament Feb. 10-11. The team took sixth place out of 20 teams. Captains T.J. Raden and Eric Minnerath led the team in their first season as an organized school club sport. Team members are the following: (front row, left to right) Luke Spanior, Calvin Smith, Cole Jurek and Ben Grant; (back row) Jordan Och, Eric Minnerath, T.J. Raden, Logan Hamak, Cole Zunkers and Ben Rickers.



contributed photo

Patrick Plamann of Sartell has recently joined the board of directors for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud. He is a certified public accountant at Schlenger Wener & Co, St. Cloud.

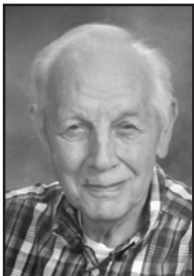
## Obituary

**Delmer John Winkelman, 86**

Foley

Oct. 28, 1931-Feb. 18, 2018

Delmer Winkelman, 86, of Foley, died Sunday, Feb. 18 at the VA Medical Center in St. Cloud. His funeral was Feb. 21 at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Duelm. The Rev. Virgil Helmin officiated. Burial with full military honors by American Legion Post 298 of Foley will be in the parish cemetery.



Winkelman was born Oct. 28, 1931, in Benton County, Minnesota to Walter and Frances (Kieke) Winkelman. He

proudly served his country during the Korean War in the U.S. Army. After the service, he worked on the coal ships on the Great Lakes. On May 11, 1955, he married Mary Ann Lamkin at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in St. Cloud. Delmer farmed all of his life in Benton County, retiring in 2014. He sold seed corn for P.A.G. for many years and also worked for the high-line company installing power poles. He was a member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Duelm, past president of Glendorado Township Board, Knights of Columbus Council 12519 of Duelm, VFW Post 4847 and American Legion Post 298 of Foley. He enjoyed fishing, bowling, playing cards and cribbage with the coffee clutch group in Santiago, and especially enjoyed time with his family.

Survivors include the fol-

lowing: his children: Mike of St. Cloud, Randy (Rhonda) of Foley, Cindy (Joe) Panek of Foley, Brenda (Dave) Olson of Glenwood, Pat of Foley, Joyce Runo of Cambridge, Mark (Carmen) of Pensacola, Fla, Ron (Stephanie) of Cambridge, Lee of Paynesville, and Karen (Jason) Longhenry of Sartell; 18 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; sisters: Rosie Neutgens of St. Cloud and Marge (Marcel) Gadacz of Hillman; as well as many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Mary Ann; daughter, Sherri Seppelt; grandson, Todd Seppelt; granddaughters: Bryana Delcastillo and Sadie Jo Winkelman; infant great-grandchildren: Lexis, Lucas and Adriel; brothers: Melvin, Earl and Harvey; sister, Corrine Rawl; and two infant sisters.

## Ebensteiner, Vonderahe chosen for Honor Choir

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

Two Sartell High School students, Brooke Ebensteiner and Carter Vonderahe, have been chosen to perform in the Grades 9/10 Minnesota Honor Choir.

For Vonderahe, it is the second consecutive year he was selected for the honor.

Two other Sartell residents (Dolan Binder, Carter Trombley), both students at St. John's Prep School, Collegeville, will also perform in the Honor Choir. For a feature story on those two honorees, see the Jan. 19 *Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader* at thenewsleaders.com/archives.

There are various categories of the Minnesota Honor Choir for girls and boys: grades 4-6, grades 7-8 and grades 9-10.

The concert took place Thursday, Feb. 22, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

About 2,400 students from throughout the state audition each year for placement into the Choral Directors Association of Minnesota's Honor Choir program, and each year about 850 are selected by a panel of judges.

### Ebensteiner

Brooke Ebensteiner, a ninth-grader, said she was "really surprised" when she heard the news she had been selected for Honor Choir.

"I decided to audition," she said, "but I really didn't think I'd get in."

Ebensteiner performed in the grades 9-10 all-female choir at the Feb. 22 concert.

The daughter of Jennifer and Scott Romstad, Ebensteiner loves music, musical theater, being in the ninth-grade school concert band (she plays trombone) and the SHS female choir under the leadership of choir director Joanna Richards.

She is also a member of the school Jazz Band and enjoys participating on the high school's speech team and the Cathedral/Sartell Nordic Track Team.

She has also performed in three stage productions produced by the St. Cloud-based GREAT Theatre organization. In addition, she performed as part of the Greek chorus in the school production of the ancient Greek classic tragic play, *Antigone* by Sophocles.

### Vonderahe

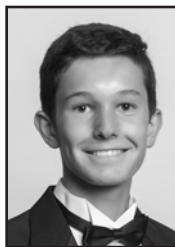
One day, Carter Vonderahe was in choir class when a teacher walked in and asked him to leave the room.

Classmates, good-naturedly, chuckled, then razzed him that he

**Choir • back page**



Ebensteiner



Vonderahe

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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.*

Feb. 7

6:26 p.m. Domestic. Fifth Avenue E. Officers were dispatched for a report of an intoxicated woman who was breaking things and had physically assaulted the male complainant. Officers arrived and found the woman at a nearby residence. One officer spoke with the woman while the second officer spoke with the male complainant. The man stated he had arrived home and observed the woman to be drinking alcohol. The man proceeded to pour the alcohol out and upon doing this the woman became upset and slapped him across the left side of his face. The woman then went into the living room and began to

break picture frames. The woman was placed under arrest and could be charged with domestic assault. She was transported to the Benton County Jail without incident.

Feb. 8

5:26 p.m. Traffic stop. 21 CR 120. While patrolling Hwy. 15 in the eastbound turn lane, an officer observed the left turn signal go from red to green. There were five vehicles in front of the officer. The vehicles began to enter the intersection, eastbound on CR 1. As the second vehicle was going through the intersection, the light turned yellow. The third and fourth vehicles went through the yellow light. The light then turned red and the fifth vehicle proceeded to enter the intersection. The officers observed how this vehicle made no attempt to stop for the traffic light. The officer activated his emergency lights and stopped the vehicle for the semaphore violation. The officer advised the driver the reason for the stop. The driver stated he didn't see the light change and provided valid licensing and proof of insurance. The officer released the driver after

issuing him a citation for a semaphore violation.

Feb. 9

6:27 p.m. Fire alarm. 617 Pinecone Road N. An officer was dispatched to Pinecone Apartments for a report of a fire alarm going off. The officer arrived and met with the building caretaker. She said she had checked all the floors and hasn't found any smoke or fire. The officer looked at the fire-control panel and found the north garage to be alarming. The officer checked the garage and observed a diesel exhaust smell, but no fire or smoke was observed. The garage was opened to vent the exhaust. Sartell fire arrived on scene and reset the fire-control panel.

Feb. 10

10:45 p.m. Traffic stop. Highway 23 and 37th Avenue S. An officer was eastbound on CR 75 when he observed the vehicle traveling in front of him had no working license-plate lights. The officer conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle after it went through the stoplight intersection. The officer asked the

driver for his license. The driver stated he didn't have one and provided an instructional permit. The officer checked the driver's history and found multiple instructional-permit violations within the last two years. The officer issued a citation for instructional-permit violation, over 18 years of age. The driver was allowed to park his vehicle in an adjacent lot and phone a valid driver.

Feb. 11

11:52 a.m. Medical. Second Street S. Officers were dispatched to a local business for a report of an elderly woman who had fallen in the parking lot. Officers arrived on scene and located the woman lying in the parking lot. The woman complained of left leg pain. Officers didn't move the woman because of a possible injury but covered her up with blankets to keep her warm until paramedics arrived.

Feb. 12

10 p.m. Traffic stop. Pinecone Road S. An officer began following a black sedan in the area of Pinecone Road S. and Scout Drive.

The officer observed the sedan was displaying yellow 2017 tabs. The officer ran a license-plate check and found the tabs to be expired. The officer stopped the vehicle as it pulled into Little Duke's off Roberts Road. The driver said he believed his driver's license was suspended and didn't have insurance on the vehicle. The officer confirmed the driver's license was revoked. The driver was cited for driving after revocation, expired tabs and no proof of insurance. The vehicle was parked and the officer transported the man to his residence.

Feb. 13

9:20 a.m. Medical. Officers were dispatched for a report of a 90-year-old woman who had fallen out of bed, possibly causing an injury. Officers arrived on scene and found the patient on the bathroom floor. The patient responded to pain and was able to move her right side. Officers learned through family members the woman had a prior history of strokes. Gold Cross Ambulance arrived and transported the woman to St. Cloud Hospital.

People

**Thirty-two Sartell students** have been named to the fall semester dean's list at St. Cloud State University. To be eligible, students must have a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

The students are: **Wendy Albjerg**, nursing; **Courtney Bevans**, nursing; **Courtney Boe**, early childhood education; **Ashley Broughton**, elementary/K-6 education; **Shazia Buttar**, communication sciences and disorders; **Jessica Condon**, social-studies education; **Robert Entenmann**, computer science; **Arielle Gapinski**, psychology; **Samuel Gielen**, communication sciences and disorders; **Jacob Gieseke**, elementary education; **Melissa Gohman**, art education; **Gabrielle Hagen**, mass communications; **Kyle Harthan**, accounting; **Sara Higgins**, communication studies; **Seth Jungels**, finance; **Sarah Kremer**, music teaching; **Christopher Leach**, computer science; **Donovan Magney**, computer engineering; **Jonathan Oleson**, mechanical engineering;

**Laurie Robles Ramirez**, global studies; **Bryn Rogers**, nursing; **Hannah Ronyak**, communication arts and literature; **Clare Ruetter**, elementary/K-6 education; **Daniel Silvers**, land surveying/mapping science; **Kristi Silvers**, community psychology; **Carly Spoden**, accounting; **Mikayla Stockinger**, social work; **Jennifer Thompson**, social work; **Jeffrey Van Slooten**, technology management; **Jarrett Weispfennig**, nursing; **Daniel Wilson**, communication arts and literature; and **Brenda Zamlen**, political science.

**Five Sartell students** were recently named to the fall dean's list at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth. Dean's list members have achieved a 3.75 grade-point average or higher on a 4.0 scale.

They are: **Cynthia Gardner**, nursing; **Melissa Fleischman**, nursing; **Lauren Buchholz**, biology; **Allison Hemmesch**, exercise physiology; and **Tonya Paul**, exercise physiology.

**Anna Grace Miller** of Sartell has been named to the president's honor roll at Valley City (N.D.) State University. To achieve the honor roll, students earn a 4.0 grade-point average.

**Samuel Zwiener** of Sartell has been named to the fall semester president's list at Midland University in Fremont, Neb. Students on the president's list must complete coursework with a semester grade-point average of 4.0.

**Three Sartell students** have been named to the fall semester dean's list at Bemidji State University. To be eligible, students earn a 3.5 grade-point average.

The students are **Erin Deters**, **Angela Higgins** and **Gabrielle Linn**.

**Wendie Tingelstad** of Sartell was recently named to the fall semester dean's list at Riverland Community College in Austin. To be eligible, students must earn a grade-point average of 3.25 to 3.99 on a 4.00 scale.



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# Annual farm show set Feb. 27-March 1

by Cori Hilsgen

news@thenewsleaders.com

Agriculture enthusiasts and others will have a chance to check out innovative ideas and new machinery, visit professional vendors and listen to speakers on farm-related topics at the Central Minnesota Farm Show Feb. 27-March 1 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud.

The farm show has hosted thousands of visitors for 51 years.

"Last year we saw just (more than) 3,500 visitors," said Sheri Wegner, special-events coordinator. "This year we are looking for 4,000."

Wegner said something new this year is "Topics on the Hour." Each vendor will present on their product or services on the Carlson Room stage. Also new are cookies-and-milk tickets during the last two hours of the show each day.

This year's event includes more than 390 booths and 200 vendors, free coffee and donuts from 9-11 a.m. each day, drawings for prizes, daily seminars and Linder Farm Network broadcasts from the show.

KASM and WVAL radio stations will also be broadcasting live interviews from the showroom floor each day.

This year's seminars include "Carrying the Load: Is your equipment fit for the road?" from 10:30-11:45 a.m. and 1:30-2:45 p.m. Tuesday. Minnesota State Patrol commercial motor-vehicle officer Dave Busse will discuss the latest rules and regulations on roadside inspections, load securement and transporting hazardous materials.

A panel will also discuss the legal side and the farmer's point of view on water quality/buffer zones on Feb. 27.

Scott Steffes from Steffes Group, a nationally recognized leader in the auction industry, will discuss "Market Trends on Equipment - Looking Forward" from 10:30-11:45 a.m. and 1:30-2:45 p.m. Wednesday.

AgStar Financial Services senior business analyst Cathy Olson, University of Minnesota extension educator Gary Hachfeld and Stinson Leonard Street attorney Brian Schoenborn will discuss estate planning and "Planning Your Leg-

acy" from 10:30 a.m.-noon and 1:30-3 p.m. Thursday.

Each year the Farm Show committee awards 10 Central Minnesota area high-school students with \$500 scholarships. The farm show committee is expanding the scholarship program for 2018 and will match up to \$5,000 for donations/sponsorships toward \$1,000 scholarships for high-school and post-secondary students going into an agri-related field of study.

"This is the largest indoor farm show in the upper Midwest," Wegner said. "It provides an opportunity for the farmers to meet and visit with the area reps to see first-hand the new equipment and technology. We are the place to meet to cultivate friendships."

Many area businesses including Stearns Electric, Powerhouse Outdoor Equipment, Cy Pfannenstien Music Service, Central Minnesota Credit Union and Minnesota Home Improvement have participated at the event in previous years.

For more information, visit the website, CentralMNFarmShow.com.



contributed photo

**More than 3,500 people attended last year's annual farm show. This year's farm show, the largest indoor show in the upper Midwest, will be Feb. 27-March 1 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud.**

## Cold fun, warm smiles



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

**Working up an appetite Feb. 17 at the St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club's annual ice-fishing tournament is (left to right) Jordan Fieler, 6, of Sartell; Cole Helback, 7, of St. Stephen; Riylan Hinnenkamp, 7, of Sartell; Carter Helback, 10, of St. Stephen; and Adam Hinnenkamp of Sartell.**

## Apple

from front page

on Friday, May 25, with short (0.3-mile run, 2.65-mile bike ride and a 0.3-mile run) and long (0.5-mile run, 4.5-mile bike and 0.5-mile run) courses for kids ages 6 to 15. The Apple Duathlon also has a short Apple Seedlings parking lot run for kids ages 3 to 6.

"We get a ton of kids who come out and do it," Dahlin said. "They all love to do it. And I think it also helps get the families out doing something fun, too."

The main and sprint race take place on Saturday, May 26. Both 5K runs and the bike rides start and finish at Sartell Middle School.

"Obviously the majority (of our participants) are from Minnesota," Dahlin said. "We get some from the Midwest. But we do get people from all over the country."

And that includes some top athletes who have even gone on to compete on the national and international scale.

"We have been a part of the USA Triathlon series," Dahlin said. "And we've held the national qualifier here in the past."

Dahlin said the money raised during the two-day event helps fund area scholarships and has recently gone toward the purchase of 21

Share the Road signs that will be put up around the community this year.

"And our plan this year from the money that we earn, we are going to be helping out an individual, through an application process, who has been injured and can no longer bike with regular equipment. So, we will be helping that person purchase some adaptive equipment."

Training is already underway for many athletes. But for those looking for a fun, less competitive option to start their journey to becoming a duathlon competitor, Dahlin said there is still plenty of time to prepare and sign up.

"Anyone can do it," Dahlin said. "It might take a little training, but anyone can. Just try it out and see if you like it."

Registration for the Apple Duathlon individual age group and sprint race is \$68.90 for individuals through March 4, \$74.20 from March 4 through April 29, and \$100.70 from April 30 through May 21. Athletes can register at appleduathlon.org.

The Apple Duathlon, started by Rich Schwegel and Daryl Stevens, debuted as a smaller scale race in St. Cloud's Whitney Park during the fall of 1983. In 1994 the event was moved to Sartell and restructured to its current run-bike-run style and has since served as a World Duathlon Championship qualifying in 2009 and 2013.

**CATHOLIC UNITED FINANCIAL MATCHING GRANT**

### FISH FRY

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Tickets sold at the door

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# Kids unearth science, environment at Waterfest



photos by Carolyn Bertsch  
Kami Schreifels, 9, stretches a bubble over the legs of Gabi Schumann, 10, as Elyse Parson, 9, looks on Feb. 15 during the Bubbleology segment of the Waterfest event which took place at the College of St. Benedict. All three girls are from Sartell.



Sartell-St. Stephen High School Environmental Science students Colten Sigurdson, 17, (left) and T.J. Raden, 18, answer questions about various furs and bones displayed Feb. 15 during a Waterfest event which took place at the College of St. Benedict. More than 400 children from Oak Ridge, Pine Meadow, Clearview and St. Katharine Drexel elementary schools were present to learn about the natural environment.

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# Opinion

## Our View

### Stearns sheriff race shaping up on ballot

Stearns County will elect a new sheriff this fall. The race should be one of the most interesting and most important on the November ballot. For the first time since 2002, there won't be an incumbent sheriff on the ballot. When John Sanner retired a year ago after serving for 14 years, the county board appointed Donald Gudmundson to fill out his term. Gudmundson says he doesn't plan to run for election. So far, two veteran law-enforcement leaders announced they are running. Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud and Stearns County Lt. Robert Dickhaus want to be sheriff. The *Newsleader* profiled Bentrud in the Feb. 16 edition. Dickhaus is featured in today's edition. Other candidates may still appear. The official filing period opens on May 22. The sheriff supervises more than 200 professionals with an annual budget of \$22 million. Voters should press the candidates on how they plan to use these resources to protect our communities. Deputies patrolled more than 2,500 miles of county and township roads and handled more than 41,000 complaints in 2016. In addition to patrolling and enforcement, the sheriff runs the county jail, which housed 7,600 inmates in 2016, the most recent year with available statistics. The Stearns County 911 center dispatches for 31 fire/rescue departments, 13 police departments and six ambulance services. During 2016, the 911 center handled approximately 172,000 emergency and non-emergency calls. Deputies provide security for the courthouse and other county buildings. For cities such as Sartell and St. Joseph that have their own police departments, the sheriff's office dispatches calls, deputies back up officers and investigators help with crimes against people and property. Stearns County received more than 12,000 calls from Sartell and more than 4,800 from St. Joseph in 2016. Of the 34 townships in Stearns County, St. Joseph topped the list of calls with more than 2,100, according to the sheriff's office's annual report. Every day of the year, the sheriff's office touches the lives of hundreds of county residents. Most of those activities take place with little notice or attention. But the sheriff is the key player when a major crime occurs. Questions still linger from the kidnapping and murder of Jacob Wetterling. The investigation haunted the terms of three sheriffs starting in 1989.

An American Public Media podcast called "In the Dark" asserted that, starting with the original investigation, the Wetterling case had been mishandled. A St. Joseph man who was originally a witness, Dan Rassier, later became a "person of interest" and he sued Sanner. The APM report also reported a poor record of solving crimes.

In this important race, voters should ask what improvements need to be made for solving high-profile crimes as well as the less notable cases. Candidates should be able to explain in detail how they will enforce the law in a sprawling county that stretches for 60 miles west from the St. Cloud metro area through small towns, farms and resorts.

## Gun debate is about dollars, cents

Thoughts and prayers.

We heard those words again last week after another angry man picked up his legally purchased battlefield weapon and attacked a Florida high school, killing 17.

Thoughts and prayers from political leaders, again. What they really should be saying is "dollars and cents."

Because money, not logic, not sound public policy, not hollow thoughts and prayers, controls the gun safety debate in America.

In the last election cycle, the gun lobby poured \$55 million into campaigns.

Donald Trump benefited from more than \$31 million of gun-lobby money donated to support his campaign and oppose Hillary Clinton.

Florida's junior senator, Marco Rubio, has collected \$3.3 million from the gun lobby in his political career.

The biggest pile of gun lobby money goes to Republicans. The first Democrat on the list of current members of the House and Senate, Rep. Sanford Bishop of Georgia, ranks 79th with \$49,496.

Minnesota's Collin Peterson, a Democrat who represents the Seventh District that includes the western half of Stearns County, ranks 84.

Rep. Tom Emmer, the Republican who represents Minnesota's Sixth District, ranks 258 with \$3,000.

### Letter to the editor

### Sartell High School senior addresses Parkland shooting

Erin Stone

Senior at Sartell High School

This past Valentine's Day, on Feb. 14, 17 staff and students were brutally named the victims of our country's latest school shooting in Parkland, Florida. Although the area is distant from our suburban community, this heartbreaking tragedy affects our families and students here. In the first 46 days of 2018, 21 staff and students across the United States have been fatally murdered due to gun violence on school property.

Three of the top 10 most deadly mass shootings in the United States have occurred in the last five months. The terrifying mass shootings that have occurred recently account for only a fraction of gun-related casualties, but are particularly frightening because they happen without warning and dozens of lives are lost within seconds of chaos. The victims who are slain are chosen not for any reason but for where they unfortunately happen to be. Since Aug. 1, 1966, 1,077 lives have been

Mike  
Knaak  
Editor



These contributions were compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics from Federal Election Commission candidate reports.

Gun-lobby money buys votes and blocks any action on gun-safety issues. Even for candidates who get little or no money, the threat of well-funded attacks against them keeps them in line.

No wonder thoughts and prayers don't lead to action.

The first major bill passed in 2017 and Trump's first major legislative achievement made it easier for people who were not mentally competent enough to manage their money to buy guns. Emmer voted for that measure.

When Sen. Dianne Feinstein proposed blocking gun sales to persons who are on various terrorist lists, including being banned from boarding airplanes, the Senate voted no.

Following the Las Vegas mass shooting that left 58 people dead, members of congress talked about banning so-called "bump stocks," an after-market device that converts semi-automatic weapons to full automatics. To date, there's no action

on that.

The majority of Americans support gun-safety measures that in no way threaten the Second Amendment. Depending on the specific poll and the question asked, the support ranges from 70 to more than 90 percent.

These measures include: background checks on all sales; banning high-capacity magazines; renewing the assault weapons ban that was law between 1994 and 2004; and improving the quality of the background-check database so people don't fall through the cracks.

There are other ideas open for debate including requiring gun-proficiency tests much like driver's tests and "red-flag" laws that allow law enforcement to intervene during background checks.

None of these ideas come even close to banning or confiscating guns.

Dollars and cents should not be part of this debate.

There's one factor that carries more power than big money and that's politicians' fears they will be voted out of office.

Voters must make it clear to politicians that if you fail to act, if you block reasonable debate on commonsense measures, if you only offer thoughts and prayers, you will pay at the ballot box and you will be voted out of office.

lost due to mass shootings (excluding robberies, domestic crimes and gang violence) in the United States. Valuable citizens from the unborn to the elderly have suffered fatalities and casualties.

Across the 41 states involved, including Minnesota, 176 victims were children and teenagers. This issue needs to stop. These horrible deaths come at the cost of no particular person other than the accused shooters themselves. The arguments between political and mental-health beliefs need to stop. This is not a tragedy at the specific fault of our president, and this is not a crime at the ability to hold blame.

We, as citizens of the United States, need to come together and find a solution. We need to provide unity, safety, care and kindness toward one another, especially for our children and students. The lives of kids, teens, adults and those of all ages in between are being stolen from us. There are grieving families, friends and communities that remain brokenhearted and inconsolable from

the losses they have suffered.

With all that surrounds us in our hard-enough lives today, it becomes easy and comfortable to show ignorance toward these mass tragedies. It is hard to empathize with situations that are so unbearably unimaginable. However, it's important to stay informed and provide togetherness for all those around you.

As a student in our community, I hope our area, our state and our country, never faces a tragedy like this again. Dozens of staff and students here in Sartell and the surrounding St. Cloud areas have been shaken and distraught by the number of shootings that have already occurred in the United States during 2018.

This issue affects everyone. Please show compassion as we come together to find a solution to end mass shootings. The arguments are not worth it – all that matters is we must be unified through humanity alone. Be there for one another with benevolence not violence.

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.

# GOT AN OPINION?

The Newsleaders  
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# Dickhaus

## from front page

helped with statewide Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Responders system, which required a remodeling of the communications center and training almost every police, fire and EMS user outside the city of St. Cloud on how to use the new radio system.

Currently, as administrative lieutenant, Dickhaus is in charge of special projects and future budget planning for the sheriff’s department.

What Dickhaus said he would like to achieve if elected sheriff is to help come up with solutions to the department’s aging infrastructure, its overcrowded jail, improvement of communications and working relationships between the sheriff’s department and many local agencies and to improve training for all area law-enforcement employees so other departments don’t have to spend time and

money duplicating training. As part of that, the department’s investigative unit would be expanded so every theft, burglary and assault would be reviewed by an investigator to determine if follow-ups are needed or arrests made.

### Background

Raised in Melrose, Dickhaus graduated from Melrose High School, then attended Willmar Community College to earn a law-enforcement degree. He then graduated from a police skills course in the law-enforcement program in 1990 at Alexandria Area Technical College.

Dickhaus and his wife, Kristine, have three sons: Wesley, who sells insurance in Owatonna; Jacob, a business major at St. Cloud State University; and Eddie, 10. Dickhaus is a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church of Melrose and also a member of the Melrose Lions Club.

Dickhaus’s hobbies are golfing and flying an air-

plane. He belongs to a flying club based in Alexandria.

Dickhaus discussed his philosophy on several issues relating to crime prevention and law enforcement.

### Community policing

His work as a police officer in Richmond and Cold Spring taught him early on the importance of knowing the people one is expected to protect.

“We’ve got to get to know people, whether it’s a farmer in a field or someone filing a complaint,” he said. “It’s important to know how to relate to people so you can put them at ease, listen to them, understand what they’re going through. That’s especially important in domestic (disturbances) in order to defuse the situation.”

Law-enforcement work is always most effective when officers and residents get to know and trust one another, Dickhaus noted.

### Biggest challenge

Substance abuse (drugs and/or alcohol) are perhaps the biggest challenges in society, Dickhaus said.

“So many problems start with substance abuse,” he said. “Breakdowns happen when drugs or liquor are abused, and mental illness can lead to people doing substance abuse. People abusing drugs often steal money and do other crimes.”

That is why Dickhaus favors a strong network among law-enforcement and social and medical agencies that deal with mental illness and substance abuse. He also advocates cross training between law enforcement and those agencies.

### High praise

Dickhaus said it was an honor and a pleasure to work under the supervision of three sheriffs to whom he gives high marks: Jim Kostreba, John Sanner and current interim sheriff Don Gudmundson.

“They’re great guys who

always got the job done.”

### Lack of personnel

Dickhaus said he’s concerned about a lack of interest in law enforcement as a career option. He recalls the times when law-enforcement personnel would be standing in long lines to take tests for just one or two job openings – as many as 200 to 300 men and women. Now, he said, it’s lucky if there are 30 or so candidates for such jobs.

### Public help

There are many easy but effective ways for the public to help law enforcement do its job, Dickhaus said. Do not hesitate to call 911, even if the cause seems minor.

“If you see something, like a strange car in the neighborhood, say something,” he said. “Call us.”

Many crimes are prevented or solved by law enforcement putting together a series of tips that, in and of themselves, would seem insignificant, he said.

## 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@the-newsleaders.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. 23**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

**Saturday, Feb. 24**  
**13th Annual 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., St. Cloud.

**Monday, Feb. 26**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

**Lunch and cards,** sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-2 p.m., Trobec’s Bar & Grill, 1 Central Ave. S., St. Stephen.  
**Sartell-St. Stephen school board,** 6-8 p.m., Sartell High School District Service Center 212 Third Ave. N., Sartell. 320-656-3715.  
**Sartell City Council,** 6 p.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N. 320-253-2171.

**Tuesday, Feb. 27**  
**National Alliance on Mental Health,** 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101.

**Thursday, March 1**  
**Coffee and Conversation,** a senior discussion group on “What is Islam and What Do Muslims Practice?” featuring John Emery, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850-19th St. S.  
**Book Sale,** hosted by Friends of the Little Falls Carnegie Library, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., hardcover books \$1, paperbacks 50 cents, 108 Third St. NE, Little Falls, 320-632-6222.  
**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, March 2**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org..  
**Book Sale,** hosted by Friends of the Little Falls Carnegie Library, noon-6 p.m., hardcover books \$1, paperbacks 50 cents, 108 Third St. NE., Little Falls, 320-632-6222.

**Saturday, March 3**  
**Winter Market,** 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N. marketmonday.org.  
**Book Sale,** hosted by Friends of the Little Falls Carnegie Library, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., \$2 per bag, 108 Third St. NE., Little Falls, 320-632-6222.

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All Old Pictures

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# Council gives go-ahead to Pinecone Road project

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

On a vote of 4-1, the Sartell City Council approved plans and advertisement for bids for the long-awaited Pinecone Road North reconstruction project. The new road is necessary, partly because of all of the increased volume of traffic that will be apparent when the new Sartell High School opens in 2019.

Council member David Peterson voted against the resolution because he said he feels strongly the intersection at Pinecone Road North and Seventh Street should be made into a controlled intersection as part of the project rather than waiting for a traffic study after the Pinecone project has been completed.

Peterson said it is almost certain a traffic study will show that intersection needs more controls within a year or two, which would require tearing up the road there and doing the project all over again, resulting in a waste of money.

Council member Mike Chisum echoed Peterson's thoughts, but he agreed with others on the council the project must be given a green-light go-ahead as soon as possible because of time constraints.

Peterson also said he disagrees with plans to spend \$30,000 for landscaping of the two roundabouts that will be built as part of the Pinecone project – one at 27th Street, the other at 35th Street. Peterson said that planting

perennial native grasses on those roundabouts would be perfectly adequate at much less expense.

The Pinecone North Project, as it's known, will involve two phases of work, all the way from First Street North to 35th Street North to the vicinity of Oak Ridge Elementary School and the nearby Sartell High School now under construction.

From 15th Street North to 27th Street North, the current two-lane road will be reconstructed into three lanes with a center left-turn lane. A biking-hiking trail will be laid down on the east side of that road. There will be roundabouts constructed at 27th and 35th streets.

From First Street North to 15th Street North, the road will undergo a bituminous-overlay project on the road and bike-hike trail.

In conjunction with LeSauk Township, the city will also help do an overlay project on the township road from 35th Street North to 40th Street North.

Prep work for the project will begin this June. The overlay portions of the project will be done during August and September in a way that will not require any road closures. The rest of the project will be done from Labor Day through autumn 2018.

In addition to the actual road surface work and reconstruction, there will be curb replacements, storm-sewer work and other improvements.

Construction costs for the project are projected to be about \$5.6 million.

## Choir

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was about to get disciplined for something he did wrong.

Not to worry. The teacher told Vonderahe he had been chosen, once again, to be part of the Minnesota Honor Choir. He is a member of the SHS Men's Choir under the direction of choir director Brandon Nordhues.

Vonderahe, now a ninth-grader, joined the school choir when he was in seventh grade. He is the son of Melinda and Adam Vonderahe.

Always passionately devoted to

music, Vonderahe loves to sing, as well as play piano and trumpet. He is a member of the SHS Jazz Band, takes piano lessons at the Wirth School for Performing Arts and is also a member of the Youth Chorale of Central Minnesota, as well as its Ensemble Choir. That choir is an auditioned choir comprised of the top-talented 20 students in the region.

Vonderahe is also a member of the Seventh Street Ensemble and its Show Choir for Sartell High School. He sings in an a cappella group he founded called Minor Seven that has performed at various Sartell events in the past half year.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SARTELL  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That the Sartell Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Council Chambers of the Sartell City Hall at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, Monday, March 5, 2018, to obtain public input on the 2016 Comprehensive Plan amendments. The 2016 Comprehensive Plan is a policy document intended to guide city decisions. The plan identifies a series of nine driving principles and goals which include: Communications and Engagement; Eco-

nomic Development; Public Safety; Planning; Community Culture; Parks and Open Spaces; Transportation; Sustainability and Community Facilities. The Comprehensive Plan can be viewed online at [www.sartellmn.com](http://www.sartellmn.com) or by viewing a paper copy at City Hall located at 125 Pinecone Road N.

Mary Degiovanni  
City Administrator

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