

# Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader

Friday, March 9, 2018  
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Est. 1995

## Town Crier

### Senior Connection hosts photography speaker

The Sartell Senior Connection will host Stan Lewis, retired St. Cloud State University professor, at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at the Sartell Community Center, 850-19th St. S. Lewis will speak about St. Cloud photographers in the 19th and 20th centuries. Lewis will talk about the first professional photographer in St. Cloud and how photography helps us learn about the past.

### Bird house building project set March 18

A youth birdhouse-building project is scheduled from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, March 18, at St. Stephen City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave. SE. The project is sponsored by the St. Stephen Sportsmen's Club and the City of St. Stephen.

### Seeking nominations for ATHENA Award

The Women's Fund of the Central Minnesota Community Foundation is seeking nominations for the ATHENA Award which is presented to a woman who has achieved excellence in her career and inspires others. Nominations for this award will be accepted until March 30 and the recipient will be honored at the Central Minnesota Community Foundation Annual Dinner on September 11th. To nominate a candidate for the ATHENA Award, nominators must complete a short form at [www.communitygiving.org/athenaaward](http://www.communitygiving.org/athenaaward) or by contacting Greta Stark-Kraker at [gstark@communitygiving.org](mailto:gstark@communitygiving.org).

### March is Food Share Month

March is Food Share Month in Minnesota where donations are matched during the month. Consider leveraging the match by running a food drive within your work place, church or service club and donate to your local food shelf. Catholic Charities Emergency Services, 320-229-4560, or The Salvation Army, 320-252-4552.

For additional criers, visit [www.the-newsleaders.com](http://www.the-newsleaders.com) and click on Criers.

## Community education dusts off shiny new snowshoes

photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Noah George (left) and Karson Ritter, both 9, lead a group of 18 peers on a showshoe hike Feb. 27 on the grounds of Oak Ridge Elementary School. Students were first to have the chance to try out the new snowshoes, obtained by Sartell-St. Stephen Community Education, in a "pop-up" community education class. Snowshoe hikes are also planned after school for students who attend Pine Meadow Elementary and Sartell Middle schools pending favorable weather conditions.



## School board hears chance to host student council conventions

by Dave DeMars  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

The highlight of the Feb. 26 school board meeting was the presentation of members of the Sartell High School Student Council requesting that the board permit them to host the 2020 Minnesota Association of Student Councils - Minnesota Association of Honor Societies (MASC-MAHS) State Convention.

The convention would be sometime in April and the

Sartell chapter of the MASC-MAHS would play host for four days to 300 - 400 students from around the state in the new high school.

Gopi Ramanathan kicked off the presentation pointing out that the convention is focused on developing leadership capabilities and opportunities and exchanging ideas to work toward improving their individual schools. The event is capped off with an election for the state MASC-MAHS executive board.

Senior Colin Nord explained in a bit more detail how last year's MASC-MAHS convention had benefited him.

"Last year I ran for secretary of the exec. board," Nord said. "Don't ask me how it turned out. I gave it my best shot, and even though I didn't win, it was like honestly one of the best experiences I have ever had. It taught me so much about planning, responsibility, reaching out to people. It was an awesome experience."

Several students who at-

tended past conventions said it provided them with opportunities to network with students from Rochester, the Twin Cities and other areas that they would not have had the chance to meet.

Cost for hosting the convention would run about \$15 - \$20,000, but that cost would be borne by the MASC-MAHS statewide organization that sponsors the convention. Students attending the convention would be housed primar-

School • page 3



contributed photo

The color green predominated during last year's Pot 'o' Gold 1k and 5k Run event. This is a photo of the kids' run. The 2018 Pot 'o' Gold will take place on St. Patrick's Day (Saturday, March 17) at Pine Meadow Elementary School in Sartell.

## Pot 'o' Gold 5k run set for St. Pat's Day

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

There will be lots of people sporting leprechaun-green jogging gear when the third annual Pot 'o' Gold 5k run takes place on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17, at Pine Meadow Elementary School in Sartell.

The event, billed as affordable, healthy family fun, is one of the four annual events in the Bernick's Family Fitness Series in part-

nership with the St. Cloud YMCA. This year, Pot 'o' Gold's main sponsor is Country Financial of Sartell.

Participants can register on the morning of the event. The 1k kids' run will begin at 8:30 a.m. At about 8:45 a.m., the 5k run will start, as well as a two-mile walk. There will be face painting for children and snacks and refreshments for one and all.

"This is an incredible event," race coordinator

Gold • page 3



## Obituary

### Virgil J. Christensen, 88

Aug. 4, 1929-Feb. 27, 2018

St. Stephen

Funeral services were Saturday, March 3, 2018, at St. Stephen's Catholic Church in St. Stephen for Virgil J. Christensen, 88, of St. Stephen. Virgil passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2018, at St. Cloud Hospital surrounded by his loving family. The Rev. Eugene Doyle officiated. Burial will take place in Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery in Askov.

Family and friends called on Friday at the Daniel Funeral Home in St. Joseph and on Saturday at the



church in St. Stephen.

Virgil was born on August 4, 1929, in Askov to the late Harold and Margrethe (Sorensen) Christensen. He proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1948 - 1952 during the Korean Conflict. He was stationed in Okinawa, Japan. Virgil began his career as a Heavy Truck/Diesel Mechanic in 1952. He met the love his life, Bertha "Dolly" Morris and they were married on November 7, 1964, in Sandstone. They created a loving home, raising four children and enjoying 48 years together.

They settled in St. Stephen in 1998. Virgil was the heart of the family business, C & H Truck Repair in Waite Park. He was passionate about his work and the shop up until his passing.

He loved spending time with his family and friends, telling a good story, dancing, fishing and tinkering in the garage and with his boat. Virgil will be remembered for his hard work ethic and good-natured personality. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend who will be dearly missed!

He is survived by his children, Terry of Sioux Falls, S.D., Victoria Ingram (fiancé Scott MacKissock) of Little Falls, Cindy Christensen (Tom Brausen) of St. Stephen, Wendy (Patrick) Hicks of St. Stephen; grandchildren, Kayla, Steffen, Brianna and Meghan; and sister, Doris Hedtke of Fergus Falls.

Virgil was preceded in death by his wife, Dolly in 2011; brother, Thue; and son-in-law, Rick Ingram. Memorials are preferred.

## 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. 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. 21

4:48 p.m. Domestic in progress. First St. NE. Officers were dispatched to an apartment complex for a report of a possible domestic involving a man and woman. Officers separated and interviewed each party. Both parties stated the argument was only verbal and at no point became physical. Officers allowed both parties to stay in the apartment but advised that someone would be asked to leave for the evening if officers were called back a second time.

### Feb. 22

3:11 p.m. Stolen vehicle recovered. CR 120. While patrolling near Walmart, an officer observed a dark sedan parked in the parking lot of Frugal's. The officer thought this was suspicious because the restaurant has been closed. A record check revealed the vehicle had been reported stolen in Mendota Heights. The vehicle was occupied by two people and the officer radioed for backup. The driver was placed under arrest and charged with possession of a stolen vehicle. He was transported to Stearns County Jail without incident. The car was returned to its owner.

### Feb. 23

7:27 p.m. DWI. Highway 15 and CR 1. While sitting at the red light at the intersection of Highway 15 and CR 1, an officer

observed a pickup enter the intersection out of turn and complete a U-turn from northbound Highway 15 to southbound Highway 15. The officer stopped the truck for stop-light violation. While speaking with the driver the officer observed strong odors of alcoholic beverages. The driver admitted to drinking and was run through field sobriety testing. After failing all of the officer's tests, the driver submitted to a PBT test. The test showed the driver was almost three times over the legal limit. The driver was placed under arrest and could be charged with third-degree DWI.

### Feb. 24

12:58 p.m. Medical. Ninth Street North. Officers were dispatched for a report of an elderly man possibly having a heart attack. Upon arrival officers gave the patient oxygen. One officer stayed with the patient and monitored his condition while a second officer received medical history from the family. The family stated the man's chest pains began the day before while he was shoveling snow. Gold Cross took the man to St. Cloud Hospital.

### Feb. 25

10:07 p.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue North and Sartell Street West. An officer was advised of a suspicious driver entering the city from Sauk Rapids. The officer saw the vehicle as it crossed the Sartell Bridge. The officer followed the vehicle and observed several moving violations. The officer stopped the vehicle. While speaking with the driver, the officer observed several signs indicating he was impaired. The driver was unable to successfully complete field sobriety testing. The driver was placed under arrest for suspicion of DWI. While conducting a vehicle search officers found a controlled substance. The driver could be charged with fourth-degree DWI and fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance. The vehicle was impounded.

### Feb. 27

12:48 a.m. Traffic stop. CR 1 and Ninth Avenue North. An officer observed a vehicle directly in front of him with a cracked windshield. The officer stopped the vehicle. While speaking with the driver the officer learned that the driver didn't have a valid license or proof of insurance on the vehicle. A records checked the driver's license was revoked. The driver was cited for driving after revocation and no proof of insurance. He was warned for the cracked windshield.

## Sartell Bantam A hockey team headed to State Tournament.

Sartell Bantam A hockey team beat Edina 5-3 in the Bantam A West Regional Hockey Tournament Cham-

pionship game. They are headed to the Bantam A State Hockey Tournament. The boys defeated Arm-

strong Cooper, Minnetonka and Edina to advance as the No. 1 seed from the West.



(Front row) Connor Hacker, Brandon Bonach, Parker Comstock, William Yu, Josh Kern, Matthew Pallansch. (Middle row) Riley Weinand, Joe Folsom, Brady Baxter, Brandon Janu, Parker McCabe, Lucas Smith. (Back row) Assistant Coach Austin Guggenberger, Logan Kubesh, Gavin Henkemeyer, Tommy Franke, Assistant Coach Ryan Bidingier, Michael Webster, Hayden Walters, Head Coach Brian McCormack.

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## People

Meghan Roehrich of Sartell has been named to the fall semester dean's list at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must take at least 12 credits and earn a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher.

### St. Stephen Optical

(formerly Index 53)

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# School

## from front page

ily with host families in the area or, in some cases, stay at local hotels.

Sartell has been chosen to host the convention, but what is needed is the permission of the board to use the facilities in order to make it a truly exciting experience. It was pointed out that this would be an excellent chance to showcase the new high school, the community and the area.

## Other business

The board heard a short presentation on progress on building the new high school. Despite snow and inclement weather, the building is still on schedule Project Manager Lee Gruen said. Heat has been introduced into some areas of the building to facilitate internal work. The project is on budget.

The board also received a report on the MN Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDs).

SLEDs is a statewide computer study that focuses on examining the most efficient ways to achieve successful outcomes in education and work. The chief idea is to follow the progress of students as they move out of the Sartell school system and onto further education or into the world of work. The study tries to answer the question of how well are students prepared to accept the challenges of higher education, or the world of work.

Sartell has been doing an excellent job of preparation in comparison to other communities involved in the study.

Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert reported on a meeting with the city of Sartell Economic Development Committee to discuss what is happening at school. It was a very positive meeting Schwiebert reported.

“The thing that I thought was really important was that they came right in and said, ‘you are what has built this city. Our growth right now is taking place because of the things that are happening at the school and what is going on with the school.’”

One of the items briefly discussed was how to attract people to come to the community , Schwiebert said. The fact that there is very little in the way of medium-level housing works against community growth.

“A lot of our people who work in custodial, clerical, and bus driving positions – they are not living in the community because they can’t find homes in the community,” Schwiebert said.

# City seeks park input from Morningstar residents

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell is planning to improve Morningstar Neighborhood Park, and it needs residents’ help to do that.

Residents, especially those who live in the Morningstar area, are being requested to fill out an online survey before Tuesday, March 13. The seven-question survey takes only a couple of minutes to complete. The results of the survey will be tabulated, summarized and presented at a meeting in the Morningstar neighborhood at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 22. Residents there will be notified by letter of the meeting.



Keller

To take the survey, go to the city’s website at [www.sartellmn.com](http://www.sartellmn.com), then scroll down to “Sartell City News” and right under that heading is one that says “Neighborhood Park Survey.” Click where it says “here” in the paragraph.

After the survey deadline, March, 13, the Sartell Park Commission will discuss the survey’s responses at its March 27 meeting. The commission meets every other month.

At the Morningstar meeting, there will be personnel from several of Sartell’s city departments because park planning often involves a variety of aspects, such as public works, safety issues, budgeting and the planning department.

Sartell City Planner Nate Keller said the Morningstar survey is just the latest in surveys pertaining to the 37 Sartell parks. The parks vary greatly in

size and amenities. Keller said the city is always seeking to make improvements with input from residents. The people in Sartell, he said, highly value their parks and other green spaces, as so many surveys have indicated.

Last year, the city did surveys for Meadowlake and Sabre Oaks parks.

“We had really good turnouts when we met with neighbors who live near those two parks,” Keller said.

### Morningstar

Morningstar Park is a small park, under an acre, Keller noted. It is just off of 15th Street North, east of Celebration Lutheran Church.

The park currently has a playground on one side with a couple of benches and a covered picnic table. The other half of the park is basically an open

green space.

Keller said he is eager to hear from residents there. Sometimes, he noted, residents are happy with some very basic improvements, such as an asphalt pathway that was installed in Meadowlake Park upon residents’ requests.

## The survey

The Morningstar survey asked questions about age group, frequency of visits to the park, reasons that keep some people from visiting the park and what residents would consider their top three priorities, which can be chosen from a list or suggested under “Other.”

## Questions?

Questions can be addressed to Nate Keller, city planner, at [nate.keller@sartellmn.com](mailto:nate.keller@sartellmn.com) or at 320-258-7316.

# Gold

## from front page

Evin Haukos said. “It’s a way for families to be happy and get healthy at an activity they can afford.”

The Pot ‘o’ Gold costs \$10 per family, \$5 per individual.

“We’re not out to make money; we’re happy if we just break even,” Haukos added. “Pot ‘o’ Gold is a lot of fun because to many it’s like an annual reunion when family and friends see one

another, and a lot of them come from out of town.”

The Bernick’s Family Fitness Series, hosted by the YMCA, has been very successful, Haukos noted. Last year, in only its second year, participation increased by 35 percent. There were close to 7,000 participants for the entire four-part series.

The other events in the lineup for this year are the Move ‘n’ Groove 5k run in St. Cloud; the Rock Your Soul Trail Run in Quarry Park; and the Wishbone 5k run at the YMCA on Thanksgiving Day morning. The

latter even attracted 4,000 runners last year.

Haukos, who lives in St. Cloud, has always loved organizing races. His mother, Chris Haukos, started the well-known annual Earth Day Race at St. Cloud State University in 2000.

“I was only 11 years old at that time,” Haukos remembered. “And that day I handed out water to the runners. In the Bernick’s events, we have about 150 volunteers handing out water.”

## Rules

The Pot ‘o’ Gold race will

take place even if the weather that day happens to be inclement. It is for walkers, joggers and race-runners only.

Parents are welcome to accompany their children during the kids’ race, and participants for that race can be children up to the age of 12.

Child strollers are allowed at the event, and although pets on leashes can attend, they are discouraged because of safety reasons.

To register for the Pot ‘o’ Gold, go to its website at [scymca.org](http://scymca.org)

# Township elections are Tuesday

by Mike Knaak editor@thenewsleaders.com	3 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Supervisor: three-year term - Craig Guggenberger. Clerk: two-year term - Joe Pohl.	<b>St. Wendel:</b>  Town Hall, 36922 CR 4. Noon - 8 p.m.
Area townships conduct elections and annual meetings on Tuesday, March 13. Poll hours vary by township. There are no contested elections in any of the area townships.	Clerk: two-year term - Connie Pesta. Supervisor: three-year term - George L. Fiedler.	<b>St. Joseph:</b>  Town Hall, 935 College Ave. S. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Unopposed supervisor three-year term - David Douvier.
<b>Brockway:</b>  Town Hall, 43710-85th Ave.	<b>Collegeville:</b>  Town Hall, 27724 CR 50. 1 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Unopposed supervisor three-year term - Jerome Salzer.	<b>LeSauk Township</b> does not have an election but its annual meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall, 220 Fourth Ave. S. Sartell.
	Both offices are unopposed.		

# Meth found, arrests made in police raids

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A region-wide investigation of methamphetamine sales and distribution included police action in the 100 block of Second Street South in Sartell.

The Central Minnesota Violent Offender Task Force executed 11 search warrants at nine different locations in Sartell, Sauk Rapids, St. Cloud and Benton and Stearns counties

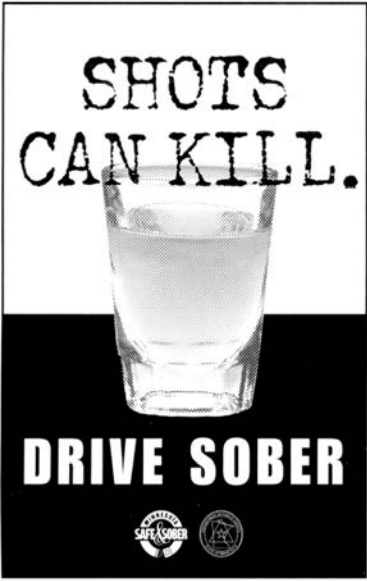
on Feb. 28 and March 1.

Officers found more than eight pounds of meth and recovered \$7,500 in the raids, according to the task force.

The following people were arrested during the investigation: Heidi Austin, 36; Anthony Keeney, 52; Justin Ginter, 30; Michael Stempson, 35; Alfredo Medina, 39; Cassandra Schlottman, 35; Susan Solomonson, 45; Brooklyn

Streit-Applegate, 21; Ashley Kirckof, 25; David Roering, 57; Ricardo Medina 38; Leroy Theisen, 65. Two additional individuals; Heather Christensen 32, and Delia Thompson, 22 were arrested on outstanding warrants.

The task force includes officers from Little Falls, Sauk Rapids and St. Cloud and deputies from Stearns, Benton, Sherburne, Todd and Morrison counties.





# Cocoa with a Cop draws a crowd



photo by Carolyn Bertsch  
A Sartell family peers at a drug-identification board Jan. 20 with Reserve Officer Adam Fettig nearby to answer questions. From left to right are Jordan Feiler, 6; Megan Voss; Adyleigh Hinnenkamp, 3; and Riylan Hennenkamp, 7.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch  
Ethan Rowe, 4, of Sartell, tries out the back seat of a Sartell police car Jan 20 as Reserve Officer Adam Fettig stands by. The police car was inside the Waters Church in Sartell for all to explore during the first “Cocoa with a Cop” event.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch  
Wednesday Karsky, 6, of Sartell, enjoys her freedom again after a moment in handcuffs with Reserve Officer Adam Fettig. Karsky was one of about 200 visitors to the Waters Church in Sartell Jan 20 for the first “Cocoa with a Cop” event organized by community-service officer Jordan Miller. Nine officers were present to chat with guests, demonstrate equipment and even play on inflatables with children.

## insight About Anna



**“I have two adopted children from Ethiopia, and there wasn’t a ‘dry eye’ in the house when we brought them home.”**

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# New Country Manor restaurant well received in area

by Vicki Ikeogu  
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Subway may be gone, but County Manor staff, residents and members of the public seem to be enjoying the new dining option in its place.

Open since Dec. 1, Good To Go restaurant, 520 First St. NE, provides deli-style sandwich options made fresh by in-house staff.

“It’s been going really well,” said Emily Frericks, County Manor’s director of public relations and marketing. “People are really excited about the new line of products. We’ve heard nothing but positive feedback.”

Frericks said Good To Go was developed as a response to customers requesting more variety and convenience in food choices.

“So, we created an in-house company to create healthier, fresh options,” she said. “We’ve

been planning this for a very long time.”

Good To Go features a variety of menu items such as wraps and cheeseburgers for meals on the go. But Frericks said the new restaurant also provides take-and-bake pizzas and flatbreads for those looking for a quick and easy meal to take home.

Breakfast options like coffee, hot oatmeal and yogurt cups are also available.

“I wouldn’t consider Good To Go to be like a convenience store,” Frericks said. “It will definitely have a more coffee-shop feel where people can sit down and grab a quick lunch or bring food home to their families.”

Because of its in-house capabilities, Frericks said Good To Go staff are able to accept and act upon customer requests for new product quicker.

“That’s been a benefit,” she said. “We can continue to change

and respond to requests. Because everything is made by us we are able to have more variety.”

Frericks said the average price for lunchtime fare is around \$5.

Frericks said a majority of the former Subway staffers have stayed on with Good To Go. Several new employees were also added to the cafe as well bringing staffing totals to around 16 employees.

“Our staff will also be open to suggestions and requests to incorporate changes to the menu,” she said. “I mean, unless you go to the grocery store all the time, options to grab something quick and healthy are limited. We want to provide something healthy and really be an asset to our community.”

Good To Go restaurant is open 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday.

# Council considers more workshop meetings

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell City Council is considering scheduling more workshops – or at least one this coming July that would be for the purpose of discussing overall budget plans and goals.

Council member David Peterson said in the past he had found such workshops to be very beneficial in getting a grasp of what the city is doing and where it is headed. In years past, such regularly scheduled meetings were called Committee of the Whole and were usually not billed as public meetings – just informal talk sessions after which the council would take no action or votes.

Peterson said he would like the council to have workshop meetings once every month, starting this July.

Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll said a former council member was not at all happy about such

meetings because the council member said the public thought council members could be secretive by discussing issues out of public view. Thus, the COW meetings fell from favor.

All on the council at the Feb. 26 meeting agreed with Peterson that workshops are beneficial, good ways to thoroughly understand issues and proposed projects before a vote is taken on them at the regular council meetings. However, most on the council said they are not convinced such meetings would be necessary every month of the year, as Peterson suggested.

The council came to a consensus that there will be a July workshop meeting at which time the members can decide how many more, if any, will be needed in the following months with the possibility of scheduling them whenever there is a council consensus that one or more are needed.

# Sartell friends plan to double the size of their Waite Park salon

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Three women who became friends when they were students at Sartell High School have plans to double the size of their salon business with a move to a new location.

Sisters Alex and Jackie Hyndman and Nikki Kruger started Poppy Salon in Waite Park five years ago. By April 1, the women plan to move to a new site just east of 10th Avenue N. on Great Oak Drive.

The salon space will be twice as big and the women plan to increase the staff from about 20 to between 40 and 50 stylists and managers.

The new location will keep what they call a “comfortable, welcoming feel” and sleek, polished style with a rustic edge.

The new site offers more parking and easier street access from two entrances.

“We’ve always prided ourselves on customer service and a really great team that treats each employee like family,” Jackie Hyndman said.

The new space will include 20 styling stations, a dedicated spray tan room and a treatment room for body waxing and massage.



photo by Mike Knaak  
**Poppy Salon owners Nikki Kruger (front) and Alex (back left) and Jackie Hyndman are planning a move to a new, bigger location in Waite Park.**

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Opinion

Our View

After 15 years,  
time to act  
on safety report

It's no surprise that gun safety measures aren't going anywhere fast in Washington, D.C., or St. Paul.

Republicans have shown little interest in action.

In St. Paul, a sixth measure gun-related bill has been introduced by five House Republicans that would allow trained and permitted school staff to carry firearms. It's HF3286 and no committee action has been scheduled.

Like most disasters, mass school shooting won't be solved with one law change or one but instead a combination of actions.

Policy makers need to look at the causes such as mental health issues and school culture but also the means such as availability of assault rifles and high-capacity magazines.

In the debate over causes, policy makers point to what they perceive as a lack of clear direction.

At the federal level, Donald Trump needs to look no further than to step out of the Oval Office and ask the Secret Service.

In 2002, the Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education published a report titled "Implications for the Prevention of School Attacks in the United States."

The agencies launched the research after Columbine and other school shootings. The 63-page report attempted to answer two questions that are still being debated: "Could we have known that these attacks were being planned?" and, "What can be done to prevent future attacks from occurring?"

The study is available here: [www.secretservice.gov/data/protection/ntac/ssi\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.secretservice.gov/data/protection/ntac/ssi_final_report.pdf)

Here are the 10 key findings of the report:

- Incidents of targeted violence at school rarely are sudden, impulsive acts.
- Prior to most incidents, other people knew about the attacker's idea and/or plan to attack.
- Most attackers did not threaten their targets directly prior to advancing the attack.
- There is no accurate or useful profile of students who engaged in targeted school violence.
- Most attackers engaged in some behavior prior to the incident that caused others concern or indicated a need for help.
- Most attackers had difficulty coping with significant losses or personal failures. Moreover, many had considered or attempted suicide.
- Many attackers felt bullied, persecuted or injured by others prior to the attack.
- Most attackers had access to and had used weapons prior to the attack.
- In many cases, other students were involved in some capacity.
- Despite prompt law enforcement responses, most shooting incidents were stopped by means other than law enforcement intervention.

All of the findings conclude with actions that can be taken to address the causes. Do they sound familiar?

These findings are more than 15 years old. Why haven't they been acted on? Isn't it finally time?

St. Joseph • Sartell-St. Stephen

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](mailto: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.

We're No. 2 and guess who's No. 1

Top 10s, Favorites and Bests lists rank just about everything from cars to college degrees.

Some of these are truly silly such as David Letterman's nightly rankings on late-night TV.

Lists aim to inform but more often entertain. Some are serious and useful while others are meant to energize debate and discussion.

U.S. News and World Report has for years ranked colleges. College-bound students and their parents study the rankings looking for the best education at the best price at the coolest campus. Meanwhile, college admissions officials cringe.

This past week U.S. News published another list that might make Minnesotans cringe.

The list of 10 Best States in America ranked Minnesota No. 2.

High scores for Quality of Life (No. 2), Opportunity (No. 3) Infrastructure (No. 6) and Health Care (No. 7) pushed Minnesota to the top. Both those scores were not quite good enough to make Minnesota No. 1.

That ranking went to IOWA.

So how did that happen? A story accompanying the list notes Minnesota's leadership in health care, education, culture and income.

Iowa leads the nation in Infrastructure and gets high Health Care and Opportunity scores.

Letter to the editor

Reader says Trump is a court jester

*Kent Nelson, Sartell*

In medieval or Renaissance times kings, (the governing monarchs), would employ court jesters to amuse the king's court with jokes, skits ridiculing the king or members of his court and debasing the royal protocols of the court. The jester was usually a midget both in stature and mind, the more misshapen the more his appeal. He was granted immunity for his actions, and as long as he didn't over-reach himself he was accepted and could continue being the jester.

The court jester is a universal character; he can be found in all cultures and nations. Jester or fool comes from Latin follis (a bag of wind or bellows). They say whatever comes to their minds. They cannot control their impulses and thus are considered by some as truth-tellers. However, they are professional fools.

Fast forward to the 21s century and our current president (the governing monarch). In his latest outing he displayed all the characteristics of the court jester, a buffoon of epic proportions. He started by proudly proclaiming that he was going off script - much to the embarrassment of his writers and advisers.

The drivel that followed included the following: mentioning "crooked Hillary," saying that his court had grown up with the Three Stooges as their role models, responding with the obligatory, "Lock her up!" to Hillary. He then preened about his bald spot and hair condition all the while looking at himself in the monitor and saying to his court how he loved looking at himself. The applause of the hundreds in attendance embraced

Letter to the editor

Reader responds to gun violence Editorial and Letter

*Kay Steiner, Sartell*

You are absolutely right Erin. Someone should have shown benevolence to Cruz when he demonstrated mental disability and anger and put out terror messages. For Pete's Sake! This person was on medication, his "adoptive" parents were aware, the school knew, the FBI knew and the police knew.

You are right! The students needed protection from police, FBI,

Mike Knaak

Editor



Minnesota's rivalry with its southern neighbor reaches a full-throated peak when the Gophers play the Hawkeyes in football. When the game is in Minneapolis, thousands of black and yellow-clad fans pay top dollar for admission to see which team gets possession of bronze pig in a rivalry that dates to 1935.

The chant "Who hates Iowa? We hate Iowa" is one of the few than can be shared in a family newspaper.

But mostly it's good fun for all.

Rankings and lists drive the internet. Buzz Feed and other sites have sharpened the obsession to an art form.

For readers, lists provide a mix of entertainment and information. For digital media, lists are serious business that drive their revenue model.

Internet sites live and die by page views, time on site and readers sharing the content.

Lists hit the target on all three. Lists are typically displayed so that readers must click to a new page to see each of the entries on the list rather than viewing the entire list on one page. With each click, a new collection of ads pops into view.

As readers click through the list pages, they rack up additional minutes on the website, and if editors and designers have done their jobs, headlines and links to even more stories keep readers hooked.

And then there's sharing. How many Iowans do you think shared (along with a wiseacre comment) the Best States rankings with their Minnesota friends and relatives?

The Best States lists are perfect for ribbing our neighbors (North Dakota ranked No. 4) but other more serious rankings deserve attention.

For example, Minnesota's 348 traffic deaths in 2017 was the lowest since the 274 deaths in 1943, when gas was rationed and motorists couldn't buy tires.

Nationwide, Minnesota tied for first place with Massachusetts and Rhode Island for the fewest fatalities per miles traveled in 2017.

There's another ranking Minnesotans can be proud of. In the 2016 election, 74.5 percent of Minnesotans voted. That's a No. 1 ranking and for those keeping score, Iowa was No. 5.

We can keep that ranking by voting this fall and making sure our friends and family members are registered and get to the polls.

his failing self-worth of the idea that he was still loved, although only by his mindless base. He mentioned "The Wall," and his base shouted in unison, "Mexico will pay!" He jabbered on about about other campaign promises and finished with the oft criticism of the media or fake news as he describes it.

And despite this fake news, the court jester (or con man as Ted Cruz called him), our president still feels he is loved, and one only has to listen in to his number-one syncopating admirer Sean Hannity extolling the con man's virtues to understand this phenomenon.

Shakespeare, a master at describing human foibles, said it best: "Foolery, sir, does walk about the orb like the sun; it shines everywhere." Shakespeare, Twelfth Night (3.1 39-40.)

people and knives don't kill people. It would seem not even people kill people, but bad policies kill people.

You have your freedom because patriots took up firearms and defended your liberty (this includes my three sons who volunteered) when it is your turn will you volunteer? In the meantime, study policy... guns and knives don't kill people! They are inanimate! Capisce!



# Council approves wellhead protection plan

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

A comprehensive plan to protect Sartell’s drinking water supply was approved by the city council at its Feb. 26 meeting.

The plan is called the Comprehensive Wellhead Protection Plan, Part II. It was presented in great detail to the council by consultant Marilyn Bayerl of Bayerl Water Resources, Alexandria; and by Karen Voz of the Minnesota Department of Health.

Part II of the plan will cover the next 10 years during which time constant water-quality data will be collected and analyzed, as well as any potential causes of possible contamination. The contamination concerns include such factors as surface-water runoff; feedlots; chemical spills; hazardous

wastes; other waterways such as rivers, lakes, holding ponds; and storm water.

Bayerl worked closely with the health department during Part I of the study, completed last year, which was a detailed analysis of wellheads in the Sartell area, geology and all factors impinging about water quality or lack thereof.

Part II sets goals, strategies and includes an ongoing education-awareness outreach program.

Bayerl praised the expertise and cooperation of those she worked with to formulate the plans, including Jeff Bemboom, Sartell’s wellhead protection manager; Nate Keller, Sartell community development technician; Dan Heim, LeSauk Township Board chairman; and Katie Breth of the Stearns Soil and Water Conservation Dis-

trict.

The plan, Part II, will be reviewed by the state for a 90-day period before it will become final, Bayerl noted.

The plan also identifies areas of concern for potential contaminants, such as private wells that have not been sealed; leaks and spills; wastewater discharge; and septic systems.

The plan contains many interesting facts about Sartell and its water usage. The city has nine wells ranging in depth from 92 to 157 feet deep. There are three water towers and three underground tanks. The year for highest water usage was 2012 when 819-million gallons were used.

The city pumps an average of 1.5-million gallons per day, and there are 4,720 metered water connections in the city.

# Val Smith Park to get more parking space

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

A new parking lot for Val Smith was approved unanimously for specs-and-quotes by the Sartell City Council at its last meeting.

Val Smith Park is along Sartell’s east side, just to the north of busy CR 29, with Country Manor across the road from the park. For a long time, residents and council members had expressed concerns about the crowded on-street parking on that road.

During events at the park, such as the Police Activities League with children and sporting events, there would be a long line of vehicles parked on the north side of the street.

Benton County and the city of Sartell are partnering for a reconstruction of the county-owned CR 29, and part of that agreement is that there will no longer be on-street parking allowed on the new roadway.

To create the new parking lot in the park, the current children’s playground there will be moved over to another area of the park. The new lot, with 24 parking spaces, will be built to connect with the current parking lot, which holds up to 26 vehicles.

The parking lot project could be completed by Memorial Day, according to city staff. It will cost \$88,000, with money to be used from the city’s street fund.

The CR 29 reconstruction project will begin early this summer.

Council member Mike Chisum called the parking lot project a “fantastic solution at a reasonable cost.” It has long been badly needed, he said, and he thanked city staff for its inception and planning.

## 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.***

**Saturday, March 10**

**Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota,** 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

**Sunday, March 11**

**Mid Minnesota Coin Expo,** 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., Tuscan Center (Midtown Square Mall), 3333 Division St. W., St. Cloud. 320-260-1971.

**Monday, March 12**

**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.

**Sartell City Council,** 6 p.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N. 320-253-2171.

**Tuesday, March 13**

**Sartell Chamber of Commerce,** 11:30 a.m., Waters Church, 1227 Pinecone Road. 320-258.6061. info@sartellchamber.com.

**St. Stephen Planning Commission,** 6:30 p.m. 2 Sixth Ave. SE. St. Stephen. 320-251-0964.

**Holistic Moms Network,** 7-8:30 p.m., Good Earth Co-op, 2010 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-252-2489.

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

**Thursday, March 15**

**Coffee and Conversation,** a senior discussion group featuring John Miley on degenerative eye disorders and chronic pain, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850-19th St. S.

**American Legion-Sartell,** open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Liquid Assets, 1091 Second St. S. #600, Sartell. john.denney@charter.net.

**Ridgewater representative at Sartell High School,** 2 p.m., 748 Seventh St. N., Sartell. Call 320-253-2440 to schedule an appointment.

**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 16**

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

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

**Saturday, March 17**

**Kids Used Clothing and Equipment Sale** hosted by St. Cloud Area Mothers of Multiples, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., free admission, Discovery Community Elementry School, 700 Seventh St. S., Waite Park,. For more information call 320-224-8778 or email amy.seeba@gamil.com.

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

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GUN SHOW - Pocahontas, IA - March 17 & 18, 2018.** Sat. 9-5; Sun 9-3, Pocahontas County Expo, 1 Block East of Courthouse. Food on Site. Buy \* Sell\* Trade Contact Chad Boyson 712-358-1051. (MCN)

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# View housing trends at Home Show, March 9-11

by Cori Hilsgen

news@thenewsleaders.com

The Central Minnesota Builders Association Home Show, will be noon-8 p.m., Friday, March 9, 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, March 10, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 11 at the St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center and will again feature the Forever House. This evolving house has four rooms that visitors can walk through to see new home products and styles each year.

The home show features a number of seminars to help visitors with financing, buying, landscaping, building a new home or remodeling an older home.

Home show visitors can meet with area builders to discuss remodeling projects, design ideas and other questions.

At the Central Minnesota Builders Association Tour of Homes from Feb. 23-25 and March 2-4, visitors were able to view new housing trends such as accessibility, plans for aging, white cabinets and luxury vinyl flooring.

Area builder Elite Development had a St. Joseph house featured on the tour. Other area builders Avalon Homes, Berscheid Builders, Heritage Homes of Minnesota, Infinity

Homes, Lumber One Avon, Noble Custom Homes, Werschay Homes and Wollak Construction had homes in the Sartell area featured on the tour.

Tyler Keller of Elite Development said he is seeing more of a demand for nicer and more expensive homes. White painted cabinets, neutral grey colors and luxury vinyl flooring instead of wood flooring are recent trends customers are requesting. Luxury vinyl flooring has been a hot product the past couple of years.

Keller said more people are requesting larger lots in the St. Joseph area. The average traditional lot used to be about one-fourth acre, but lots are now averaging just under one-half acre.

Elite Development has built patio, two-story, rambler and other homes in the Grace View Estates development. Keller said there is currently one lot left for sale which backs up to Kleinfelter park.

Owners of Elite Development include Tyler Keller, Al Keller and Rich petty.

Rick Dingmann, owner of Berscheid Builders, said they featured a patio home in the Arbor Village in Sartell, as well as a two-story home in Arbor Trails.

They have 35 lots which



contributed photo

The interior of this St. Joseph home built by Elite Development features some of the new housing trends customers are requesting. Luxury vinyl flooring has been a hot product for a couple of years.

are patio homes in the Arbor Village area. A unique feature of these homes is the distinct rear-alley entry garage concept. The Arbor Village area offers yard maintenance and snow removal, a waterfront walking trail, street lighting and a community garden for residents.

Berscheid Builders built 30 homes last year, six in the Arbor Village. Twenty-six of the 30 homes the company built last year were patio homes.

Dingmann said their patio homes feature current trends such as wheelchair accessibil-

ity with no steps, wide doorways, walk-in tile showers with no lifts and higher counters for higher stools.

The Central Minnesota Builders Association Tour of Homes in the spring and fall are where Berscheid Builders does most of its marketing.

Dingmann said it is a good way for his business to showcase its quality and workmanship styles. Many new home construction leads are generated from the tours.

The home show after the tour often generates more remodeling projects for Ber-

scheid Builders.

Berscheid Builders has been in business for 40 years and Dingmann has been with the business for 29 of those years. Several employees including Jerry Welinski, John Schmiesing and Harvey Jarnot have worked with Dingmann during those years.

"We are blessed with the best foremen, job supervisor and carpenters in town," Dingmann said.

This year's recent tour included 37 homes, most of which were located within 10 miles of St. Cloud.

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24 Pack 16 Oz. Cans

**13<sup>98</sup>**  
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24 Pack 12 Oz. Cans Regular Or Light

**11<sup>98</sup>**  
Corona Regular & Light, Modelo Especial Or Negra Modelo  
12 Pack 12 Oz. Bottles

**8<sup>98</sup>**  
Killians Irish Red  
12 Pack Bottles

**11<sup>98</sup>**  
Guinness Draught & Smithwicks  
12 Pack Bottles

**12<sup>98</sup>**  
New Belgium  
12 Pack Cans Or Bottles All Available Types

**wine of the month**

**9<sup>98</sup>**  
Michael's Irish Cream  
750ml

**15<sup>98</sup>**  
Old Tom Horan Irish Whisky  
750ml

**14<sup>98</sup>**  
Windsor Canadian  
1.75 Liter

**18<sup>98</sup>**  
Jameson Irish Whiskey  
750ml

**14<sup>98</sup>**  
New Amsterdam Vodka Or Gin  
1.75 Liter

**27<sup>98</sup>**  
Absolut Vodka  
1.75 Liter

**25<sup>98</sup>**  
Knob Creek Bourbon  
750ml

**18<sup>98</sup>**  
Espolon Blanco Or Reposado Tequila  
750ml

**6<sup>98</sup>**  
Cupcake  
750ml All Available Types

**11<sup>98</sup>**  
The Naked Grape  
3 Liter All Available Types

**8<sup>98</sup>**  
Carnivor  
750ml All Available Types

**9<sup>98</sup>**  
Murphy Goode  
750ml Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot & Pinot Noir

**3<sup>98</sup>**  
Yellow Tail  
750ml All Available Types

**9<sup>98</sup>**  
Oyster Bay  
750ml Sauvignon Blanc  
\$12.98 Pinot Noir

**12<sup>98</sup>**  
Primarius  
750ml Pinot Noir  
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**beer of the month**

**12<sup>98</sup>**  
New Belgium  
12 Pack Cans Or Bottles All Available Types

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