

Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader

Friday, March 30, 2018
Volume 23, Issue 13
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Town Crier
For additional criers, visit www.thenewsleaders.com and click on Criers.

Register now for Star Watch Party
A Minnesota Star Watch Party, featuring WCCO Radio's Mike Lynch and his giant telescopes, will be held from 8-10 p.m. Thursday, April 12 at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Participation is limited. There is a fee. Call Community Education to register 320-253-4036.

Buses to run on Easter
Metro Bus fixed route and Dial-a-Ride service will run as regularly scheduled Easter Sunday, April 1. The Northstar Link Commuter Bus service operated by Metro Bus will not be in service Sunday because the Northstar trains do not operate on Easter.

Card, cribbage, game players wanted
Country Manor Campus is looking for volunteers to play games with an individual resident or a group of residents. Checkers, cribbage, UNO, Kings in the Corner, Bridge and 500 are some of the games. Game time is 3:30-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday though the time is flexible. Contact Casaundra, Country Manor Campus, at 320-253-1920 or cheinen@countrymanorcampus.org.

Help Catholic Charities' emergency services
Catholic Charities' Emergency Services program has several weekly opportunities for volunteers. Check out: 4-6 p.m. Mondays and 9 a.m. to noon Fridays; Clothing support: 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesdays; 8:45-1 p.m. 12:45-4 p.m. Thursdays; donation door: 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 12:30-4:15 p.m. Thursdays; and food shelf guide: 3:45-7 p.m. Wednesdays. These opportunities are at 157 Roosevelt Road, Suite 100, St. Cloud. Contact Michelle at 320-229-4586 or visit thenewsleaders.com and click on March 30 Criers.

EZ-GO cart drivers
Give sisters a ride to different areas on campus in a golf cart during a minimum three-hour morning or afternoon shift. Sisters of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica are a monastic community of women who seek God in their daily lives according to the Gospel and the Rule of Benedict. The sisters of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica Convent have ministered to the people of Stearns County as well as other parts of the United States and in foreign countries for the past 150 years. Contact Sister Jean Schwartz OSB, volunteer coordinator at 320-363-7105.

**INSERT:
Good To Go**



photo by Mike Knaak

March organizer Angie Trulson (in orange) asks participants to hold hands and observe a moment of silence for gun violence victims.

Sartell March for Our Lives calls for solutions

by **Mike Knaak**
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Seeking solutions to gun violence, about 300 people participated in Sartell's March for

Our Lives Saturday, March 24. The demonstration, organized by Angie Trulson of Sartell, started with a rally at Sartell City Hall before marchers traveled more than a mile

to First United Methodist Church where some marchers lit candles in memory of gun violence victims. Before the march started, Trulson, who's brother died in

a shooting at his workplace, asked marchers to gather in a circle and hold hands for a moment of silence. "We as a country are full of

March • page 4

Everett endorsed to run against O'Driscoll

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

A St. Wendel Township woman, Heidi Everett, was endorsed last weekend by the DFL as a candidate to compete against Rep. Tim O'Driscoll (R-Sartell) for the Minnesota House District 13B seat.

District 13B is an area of northwest Stearns County that includes the cities of Sartell, St. Stephen, Holdingford and

Sauk Rapids, as well as the townships of Avon, Holding, Brockway, St. Wendel, Minden, LeSauk and Sauk Rapids.

That seat will be determined in the Nov. 6 general election. Voters will likely choose between

O'Driscoll and Everett. However, the official filing period for state office runs from May 22 to June 5. If any other contenders should file, that could lead to a primary Aug. 14.

O'Driscoll was first elected in 2010. Members of the House serve two-year terms.

Everett, whose campaign motto is "Civility in Action," said she wants to strengthen education, work to increase wages, to introduce reasonable laws for gun safety, to boost right-to-work laws, to legalize recreational use of marijuana and to develop a one-payer system so all Minnesotans have affordable health coverage.

Everett
Born in Ramsey, Everett moved to St. Cloud in 1988 to attend college. She, her husband Emil Towner, and their

four children (now ages 8 to 23) have lived in St. Wendel Township for 13 years. Towner is a professor of business communications.

Currently, Everett is a managing director for communications and editorial content for a technology company. For 25 years, she has taught writing courses as an adjunct faculty member at St. Cloud State University and at the St. Cloud Technical & Community College. She describes herself as a lifelong, passionate believer in the powers of education and is a board member of the St. Cloud school district's Lo-

Everett • page 4

Chefs, hosts combine skills for Imagination Library

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

When Rebecca Kurowski told her children she will be making something for an Imagination Library dinner, wide-eyed son Grant looked up at her and asked, "Is Dolly Parton going to be there?"

Well, no, unfortunately – not unless she pops in for a surprise visit.

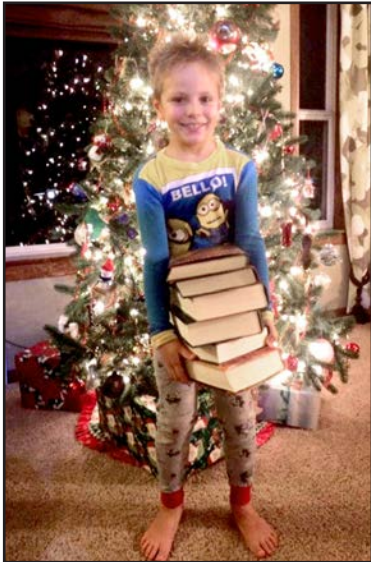
The legendary country singer has touched the lives of many children, including Grant, by founding and supporting the

Imagination Library 23 years ago. That is why Sartell resident Kurowski and many other local people are involved in an Imagination Library Progressive Dinner, sponsored by United Way of Central Minnesota, that will take place on two days, April 14 and April 21. The annual event raises funds for Imagination Library so more children can receive books in the mail, free, every month. The program is so popular there is a waiting list until more funds become available.

Kurowski decided to become

involved this year on the suggestion of a friend, Julie Schmidt, an avid supporter of the program. Schmidt told her she's just got to make her fabulous and delicious "signature" German holiday offering. It wasn't hard to convince Kurowski. Her children, when younger, were recipients of Imagination Library books. They were thrilled that day every month when the books would arrive in the mail. The Rebecca and Dan Kurowski family would gather together and spend a lot of happy time

Library • page 7



contributed photo

Grant Kurowski, a passionate bibliophile, hoists up his hefty treasure -- the complete Harry Potter series.

Council agrees to legal process against landowners

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

Legal action might have to be taken against four Sartell landowners over the matter of easements the city needs for the Pinecone Road North project expected to begin this spring.

At the March 26 Sartell City Council meeting, an extended discussion took place about the agenda item. Council member Mike Chisum said any legal action should be delayed, at least for a week or two, to give city staff and those four lot owners more time to come to an agree-

ment.

The Pinecone Road project will involve reconstruction and overlays of the busy, major roadway from Seventh Street all the way north to the new high school now under construction. To accomplish that, easements on properties along the route will be necessary. Nine of those property owners are amenable to granting the easements, but so far four others are not.

Sartell City Engineer Jon Halter said he has had numerous talks with those property owners and remains quite positive that progress toward an agreement

has been made. However, Halter said legal paperwork should at least be started through the city's legal firm (Rinke Noonan) just as a backup because without the easements, the Pinecone project could be delayed. The legal maneuver is known as a "quick-take" process, a form of eminent domain in which the city could legally take the easement by paying a fairly appraised value.

The Pinecone Road project is scheduled to begin this June.

"We should step back, take a breath and then get something done," said Chisum, who

said legal action should not be started now against those landowners.

Council member David Peterson said he is inclined to agree with Chisum because previous examples of "quick-take" legal proceedings did not work out so well.

Council members Ryan Fitzthum and Pat Lynch, who is serving as acting mayor in Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll's absence from the meeting, disagreed with Peterson and Chisum.

City staff, Fitzthum said, should have the option of being able to move forward with

the road project. The council, he noted, has discussed plans for the Pinecone project for 18 months, and it's time to move forward, he noted.

Lynch made much the same points, saying the Pinecone project, already set in motion, cannot be delayed.

Peterson encouraged Halter to continue to talk with the four property owners, preferably in face-to-face settings so legal recourse can be avoided.

The motion to reconsider starting the legal proceedings failed on a 3-1 vote with Chisum voting yes, the others no.

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Help Wanted

The City of Sartell is accepting applications for a **Maintenance Worker – Streets**. This is a full-time position with starting wage of \$20.13/hour. City application and addendum are required. Applications and other information is available at www.sartellmn.com.

Applications are due by April 20, 2018.





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Obituary

Frank C. Gruska, 68

St. Cloud

Aug. 16, 1949-March 24, 2018



Frank C. Gruska, 68, of St. Cloud, died peacefully on March 24 at his home surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle with cancer. His funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 3 at St. Michael's Catholic Church, 1036 CR 4, St. Cloud. The Rev. Timothy Gapinski will officiate. Family and friends may call from 4-8 p.m. Monday, April 2 at the Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, 1900 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud, and after 9:30 a.m. Tuesday at the church.

Gruska was born on Aug. 16, 1949 in St. Cloud to Frank H. and Ella (Gronau) Gruska. He played baseball and wrestled for Tech High School until his graduation in 1967 and proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1970. On June 12, 1971, he was united in marriage to Mary Kay Hamerlik at St. Paul's Catholic Church in St. Cloud. Gruska lived in St. Cloud his entire life. He worked for J.L. Shiely in Waite Park for more than 10 years. Gruska's passion for the game of golf led him to obtain his PGA teaching certification. He spent more than 20 years managing and teaching golf at many courses in Minnesota. Frank was currently the general manager and club pro at Pine Ridge Golf Course in Sartell. Some of his most proud and rewarding moments were spent teaching the junior golf-

ers his love of the game. He was a kind and humble man with a huge heart, a great sense of humor and a friend to all. He will be missed dearly.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Kay; daughters, Tory (Joel) Van Halbeck of Sauk Rapids, Erin Moss of Oronoco, Minn., Megan (Kirk) Sauer of St. Joseph, and Lindsay (Rob) Pitzen of St. Joseph; 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; his father, Frank H. Gruska; sisters, Joanie Richardson and Patty (Tom) VanderEyke; brother, Tom (Julie) Gruska, all of St. Cloud.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Ella Gruska.

A special thank you to CentraCare Hospice for their loving and compassionate care provided to Frank.

Obituary, Guest Book and Video Tribute available online:

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Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

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People

Sartell High School’s Knowledge Bowl team advanced to the state tournament after winning at the regional level. The Regional Knowledge Bowl was March 20 at Celebration Lutheran Church; 18 teams competed in a written test and five oral rounds. Five teams will advance to the state meet April 12-13 at Cragun’s, Brainerd. Sartell’s team is coached by **Luke Walker** and **Laura Bakker**. Team members are **Mohannad Alkhatib**, **Jacob Fandel**, **Yash**

Hindka, **Janagan Ramanathan** and **Nathan Schmidt**.

Twenty-four Sartell students recently graduated from St. Cloud State University. They are the following: **Quinn Anderson**, bachelor’s in athletic training; **Isaiah Athey**, bachelor’s in special education: academic & behavioral strategist, magna cum laude; **Sandra Babcock**, bachelor’s in social work, magna cum laude; **Courtney Bevans**, bachelor’s in nursing, mag-

na cum laude; **Andrew Bibeau**, bachelor’s in special education: academic & behavioral strategist, magna cum laude; **Christopher Hertling**, bachelor’s in information systems; **Jacob Heun**, bachelor’s in mass communications, cum laude; **Nickolas Hoover**, bachelor’s in management, Magna Cum Laude; **Wasseem Jammal**, master’s in information assurance; **Mikaela Johnson**, bachelor’s in graphic design, cum laude; **Andrew Lehmkuhl**,

bachelor’s in criminal justice studies; **Richard Little**, bachelor’s in biomedical sciences, cum laude; **Alexis Mollner**, bachelor’s in accounting, cum laude; **Andrew Nash**, bachelor’s in manufacturing engineering technology; **Andrew Rickers**, bachelor’s in accounting, magna cum laude; **Clare Rueter**, bachelor’s in elementary/K-6 education, summa cum laude; **Katherine Schmidt**, bachelor’s in special education: academic & behavioral strate-

gist; **Zachary Schoonmaker**, bachelor’s in marketing and certificate, professional selling specialization; **Jennifer Senger**, bachelor’s in criminal justice studies; **Jean Smith**, associate’s in liberal arts and sciences; **Carly Spoden**, bachelor’s in accounting, summa cum laude; **Eleanore Stang**, bachelor’s in ecology and field biology; **Jenessa Tschida**, associate’s in liberal arts and sciences; and **Ann Zierden**, bachelor’s in nursing.

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 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.

ing with the driver, the officer learned the driver didn’t have a valid license and the man had been cited on March 7 for driving while suspended and he was still suspended. The officer issued the driver a second citation for driving while suspended and was warned for not having a working headlight. The truck was parked until a valid driver could take possession.

drug paraphernalia.

March 17

1:52 a.m. Disorderly person. 311 Second St. S. Officers were dispatched to a bar for a report of an altercation that had taken place between three men. Officers interviewed the complainant. The man stated he was pushed down in the bar by two other patrons. The man had minor scratches which officers photographed. Officers then spoke with the two suspected parties. The men and other patrons stated the complainant was causing problems and had been asked to leave by bar staff. The officers returned to the complainant and explained their findings. The man then became disorderly and he was arrested. The following evening officers received video of the incident. The video provided enough evidence to charge the remaining two men with disorderly conduct.

March 18

10:55 a.m. Fire alarm. 2101 CR 4. Officers and firefighters were dispatched for an alarm at one of the city’s water treatment

plants. Upon arrival, officers met with a city maintenance worker who said there was a possible chlorine leak inside the building. Officers observed a strong smell of chlorine on the perimeter of the building. Firefighters went inside the building to hit the emergency shut-off for the chlorine. The building was then ventilated and the alarm reset. Maintenance workers diagnosed and fixed the leak.

March 19

11:33 p.m. Motorist assist. Heritage Drive and CR 1. An officer was dispatched for a report of a truck that had stalled on the road. The complainant stated a woman was seen walking away from the vehicle wearing no winter clothing. The officer observed a pickup parked on the shoulder. The officer contacted the woman sitting in the driver’s seat of the truck. The woman said she had run out of gas. The officer took her to a nearby residence. The officer advised the woman the truck needed to be moved because it was a traffic hazard. Later the truck had not been

moved and the hazard lights were not working. Snow was beginning to fall making the road slippery. In order to avoid a possible accident, the officer had the vehicle towed.

March 20

2:11 p.m. Domestic in progress. 2321 Troop Drive. Officers were dispatched to an apartment complex for a report of a domestic dispute. Officers were notified the complainant could hear a woman crying and saying, “leave me alone.” Officers made contact with a woman in the lobby. The woman said her sister and sister’s boyfriend were currently in the apartment. Officers knocked on the door and were allowed in by a woman. The woman said she was arguing with her boyfriend. The man and woman were interviewed separately. Officers observed no signs of a physical altercation and no injuries were reported. The pair stated they would leave each other alone for the remainder of the evening. Officers allowed both parties to stay in the apartment.

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By Mike Johnson
General Manager
St. Cloud Rox

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photo by Mike Knaak

Some of the March for Our Lives participants walked the trail from City Hall to First United Methodist Church.

March

from front page

smart people who will come together with solutions and compassion,” Trulson said.

The Sartell march was one of more than 800 events organized around the world by students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., where 17 people died in a shooting Feb. 14. Organizers estimated that between 500,000 and 800,000 participated in the Washington, D.C., march while between 18,000 and 20,000 gathered for the march in St. Paul, the largest of 13 protests planned across Minnesota.

The Sartell march attracted people from around central Minnesota.

“Change needs to happen,” said Sarah Pasela, Big Lake, who attended the march with her son and husband. “We adults haven’t been able to do much. Now we’re taking the lead from students. We need to listen to their voices.”

Many marchers spoke of their frustration with what they see as a lack of action by government after mass shootings that began with Columbine more than 20 years ago.

“You see all this going on and you want to get something done,” said Hanna Haeg, St. Joseph.

“As a college student I think it’s ridiculous this keeps

happening. It should have ended with Columbine,” said Katelyn Gill, a St. Cloud State University student from Sioux Falls, S.D.

“I work in a preschool and I want to support the kids. I want this to end,” said Sheri Olson, Zimmerman.

The recent federal budget approved by Congress and signed by President Trump includes some gun-safety measures including strengthening the background check database and allowing public health research on gun violence. The Department of Justice has proposed regulations to band “bump-stocks,” accessories that turn semi-automatics into fully automatic weapons. But expected le-

gal challenges may find that proposed rule is outside the scope of current gun laws.

Gun-safety advocates say those measures don’t go far enough and they want tougher laws to ban assault-style weapons, high-capacity magazines and mandate universal background checks.

At the Minnesota Legislature, Republicans have backed improved school safety but have blocked proposals to restrict gun access.

Gov. Mark Dayton wants expanded background checks, the age to buy assault weapons raised to 21 and police to have power to take guns away from people who may harm themselves or others. A Republican-controlled house has turned down bills backed by Democrats.

As the last marchers left city hall, Trulson looked ahead.

“Now it’s time for others to take the reins, get involved and make a difference,” she said.

Each marcher received a handout that listed next steps for additional action. The handout listed the contact information for state and federal lawmakers and details on how to get involved with advocacy groups.

“This is not an anti-gun protest,” Trulson said before the event. “It’s an end-gun-violence peace rally. We can collectively begin to heal the wounds we’ve experienced individually and as a culture by standing with others to say ‘This is not OK with us, we demand change.’”

Reacting to Saturday’s turnout, Trulson said, “This is just the beginning and we have the chance to keep the momentum going. The positive response from passersby with thumbs up, smiles and waves, and even someone who pulled over to spontaneously join the march speaks volumes in fulfilling the intent of the movement.”

Everett

from front page

cal Education and Activities Foundation, an advisor for a sorority and president of the Kennedy Community School’s Parent-Teacher Association. She has been involved in virtually every aspect of education at local schools and colleges.

She has also long been involved in the fight for workers’ rights and for eight years served as a co-chair of a workers’ litigation committee.

“I understand what it’s like to struggle in today’s economy,” she said. “In 2005, I went from being the primary breadwinner in our family to having no job when the company I devoted a decade of my professional life to began a series of layoffs that whittled its employee base from more than 1,000 to a few hundred in eight years.”

O’Driscoll

Raised in Sartell, Rep. Tim O’Driscoll served on the Sartell City Council and was the city’s mayor before running successfully for state legislator in 2010.

After graduating from Sartell High School, O’Driscoll earned a bachelor’s degree in real estate from St. Cloud State University. He then worked in real estate and later became a corporate trainer for Kaplan Professional Schools.

Among his other numerous civic activities were president of the Sartell Economic Development Authority, secretary and executive board member of the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization and board chairman of the St. Cloud Area Joint Planning District.

O’Driscoll was also instrumental in forming and helping continue the popular Sartell SummerFest celebration.

Among his committee assignments at the Minnesota House are those involving commerce and regulatory reform, government finance, veterans’ affairs, workplace safety and rules and legislation administration.

O’Driscoll has been honored many times for his work on behalf of veterans.



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Congregational Life Pastor:
Elizabeth Strenge

Two Sartell students help SJP math team take first place at state

by Cori Hilsgen
news@the newsleaders.com

Two Sartell residents, Tina and Henry Chen, were part of the St. John’s Preparatory School math team that earned first-place in the Beta class at the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League tournament March 12 at South St. Paul High School.

Junior Tina Chen and freshman Henry Chen were part of the winning team that also included Toto Chen (Shanghai), David Feng (Harbin Heilongjiang, China), Zander Haws (St. Cloud), Emily Huang (Shanghai), James Liu (Beijing), Ally Wang (Shanghai) and Christine Xu (Changshu, Jiangsu, China).

This is Tina’s third year she has been involved with the math team.

“I decided to join the math team because I really enjoy doing challenging math problems and I thought this would be a great way to do math in a competitive way,” she said. “I really wasn’t expecting the win because we had the fourth highest season total in our class, but I was really excited when we won.”

After high school, Tina said she hopes to study engineering or physics.

Henry has been with the math team for two years and this is his first year on the state math team. He first decided to join the team because his math teacher recommended he join.

“I like math and I thought it was going to be fun,” Henry said. “Being at state was a humbling experience because I got to see and talk to many great mathematicians my age.”

During the summer, he hopes to improve his math skills so he can perform better next year.

After high school, Henry said he hopes to study something related to physics and mathematics.

Henry and Tina’s parents are Michelle and Tony Chen.

St. John’s Prep math teacher Mary Rueter coaches the math team that includes 40 students in grades nine-12.

The Minnesota State High School Mathematics League pre-determines topics for each meet.

Students on the St. John’s Prep math team began practicing in October and practice one and one-half hours each week. Practices include reviewing the math topics for the upcoming meet and working problems related to the topic. Rueter uses copies of previously used tests to help the team practice.

She chooses eight students from the math team to compete on the varsity team for each meet. League rules require at least two of the eight varsity team members must be sophomores or younger.

There are five regular-season meets. St. John’s Prep is in the Central Gopher Conference that includes Sartell, St. John’s Prep, Albany, Apollo, Cathedral, Rocori, Sauk Rapids-Rice and Tech. These schools compete at each meet.

St. John’s Prep finished in first place in the Central Gopher Conference, which qualified them to compete in the state tournament.

At the tournament, each student takes two, 15-minute individual written tests that contain four questions. The team then works together for 30 minutes to solve six very complicated problems. The scores on the individual and team test are added together for the team score.

Rueter has been teaching math for 25 years, the last five of which



contributed photo
Sartell residents Tina and Henry Chen are part of the St. John’s Prep math team which includes (front row, left to right) Toto Chen, grade 12, Henry Chen, grade 9, David Feng, grade 12, Emily Huang, grade 10, Christine Xu, grade 11; and (back row) Coach Mary Rueter, James Liu, grade 10, Ally Wang, grade 11, Zander Haws, grade 12, Tina Chen, grade 11. The team recently earned first-place in its class at the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League competition in St. Paul.

have been with St. John’s Prep. This is her 10th year of coaching a math team and the seventh time she has had students competing at the state tournament.

This is the third year St. John’s Prep has had a math team. They have won the Central Gopher Division all three years and competed at the state tournament

three times.

Minnehaha Academy took second place and Mahtomedi High School took third place in the Beta class at the tournament.

The Minnesota State High School Mathematics League identifies and recognizes students who have unusual mathematical ability and offers them the chance

to study topics not usually taught in the high-school curriculum. Currently, more than 3,000 students participate in the league, which includes 172 schools in 25 divisions.

For additional information, visit the <http://mnmathleague.org> website.

People

Sartell Pee-Wee A team took home second place at the state tournament March 16-18 at the Duluth Heritage Sports Center. The Sabres defeated Stillwater PeeWee A 4-3 in the quarterfinals and Alexandria PeeWee A 5-3 in the semifinals. The team fell to Warroad PeeWee A in the championship game 6-3, after remaining tied through the second period. The team’s second-place finish was the best of any Sartell Youth Hockey Association team in state tournament play.



contributed photo
Team members include the following: (front row, left to right) Elliot Testa, Ella Boerger, Baylor Stebbins, Noah Hacker, Jack Schmitz and Courtney Stagman, (back row) Cullen Grahek, Drew Ritter, Teddy McCabe, Tory Lund, Casey Hansen, Holden Schwarzentraub, Nolan Smith, Trey Hilger and Elias Hill. Coaches are Mike Stagman, Eric Grahek, Troy Stebbins and Ryan Hacker.

Opinion

Our View Democracy is not a spectator sport

Recent local reaction to gun violence in schools has taught us being a citizen in a democracy is not a spectator sport.

Shaping the country’s response requires active participation and engagement in civic life.

The actions of two central Minnesota women showed two paths among many complicated solutions to the causes and means of gun violence. They both ask each of us take action with our fellow citizens.

After students at St. John’s Prep walked out of classes on the one-month anniversary of the Parkland, Fla., shootings, Principal Pam McCarthy challenged students to “walk up” after walking out.

McCarthy challenged students to walk up to people they don’t normally interact with. McCarthy asked students to speak with them, sit with them at lunch, hang out with them in the halls and after school. She said the idea behind the “walk up” challenge is when people feel known and cared for they are less likely to violate the area.

It will be hard to measure if walk-up efforts prevent a future mass shooting. But short-circuiting the anger and alienation of a young person who may someday act on those feelings by grabbing a gun is certainly worth the effort.

Among about a million people who took part in 800 March for Out Lives events across the world, 300 people joined the march organized by Angie Trulson in Sartell.

Trulson and many marchers talked about the need for solidarity, listening to young people, acting with compassion and working to find solutions.

Solidarity – working together with mutual support for a common interest – means making a commitment to stay involved, to encourage action, to vote.

Both these actions are really about changing minds one person at a time. In other words, be a participant, not a spectator.

The estimated 500,000 people who marched on the national mall looked impressive on television. But most members of Congress left town the day before and missed the moment except for a few members who joined the march in Washington, D.C., such as Sen. Amy Klobuchar. During the rally’s climactic moment, Donald Trump was enjoying a round of golf at his resort about 30 miles from Parkland instead of participating in democracy.

Those political leaders missed articulate, passionate speeches in democracy by young participants. No one should be surprised by them because they were trained for this moment by their school.

While many schools have cut arts, civics and extracurriculars, Marjory Stoneman Douglas boasts a system-wide debate and public-speaking program, drama, journalism and civic-activism classes.

Congress has pretty much finished with the gun issue. The recent budget bill includes minimal efforts to improve the background-check system, lifting limits on gun-safety research and money for improving school security.

The Department of Justice plans to regulate “bump-stocks,” but that effort probably won’t survive a court challenge because it’s outside the scope of gun laws.

So to make change many people support such as assault weapons and high-capacity magazine bans and universal background checks, participation needs to continue. That means walking up, reaching out to those with common cause and most importantly voting out the politicians who choose to go on vacation instead of participating in the debate.

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

Newsleaders

Reaching EVERYbody!

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

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, MN 56374. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space.

How slow is too slow on I-94?

At first it sounds like a great idea.

Sen. John Jasinski from Faribault introduced a bill that would penalize slow-moving drivers in the left lane of double-lane roads.

We’ve all been frustrated by “slow” drivers in the left lane of Interstate Highway 94 between central Minnesota and the Twin Cities.

Under the best conditions, the trip to a Twins game, the airport or the Mall of America can take around 75 minutes. A delay-free drive is even more important for the 5,000 central Minnesotans who work in the Twin Cities.

More than 45,000 vehicles travel both directions between central Minnesota and the Twin Cities on a typical day. And all it takes is one of those vehicles to totally clog up the freeway.

Jasinski’s bill demands “a person operating a vehicle at less than the speed of traffic under the existing conditions must drive in the right-hand lane.”

If not, they’d be fined \$100.

So how will the State Patrol define “the speed of traffic under normal conditions?”

I conducted an experiment with my spouse at the wheel this past weekend to record normal traffic conditions. She usually pushes the speed limit and she’s way more im-

patient with pokey drivers than I am. So she was a good test subject to simulate a typical driver. While she drove on a sunny Saturday afternoon, I took notes on a trip to Minneapolis.

Heading south, we quickly exceeded the 70-mph speed limit while passing slower traffic in the right lane.

In the left lane, the “traffic speed under existing conditions” appeared to be 77 mph. So does that mean the State Patrol won’t enforce the speed limit if you’re keeping up with the rest of the vehicles?

Or if you do obey the speed limit and stick to 70 mph, will you get fined \$100 for violating the slow-moving-vehicle-in-the-left-lane law? Will the state troopers even bother to enforce the law?

And there are a couple of unique traffic situations that further confound the rules.

On the weekend of any Vikings home game, beware of North Dakota fans in a hurry to get to the

Mike
Knaak
Editor



game.

Keep your eye on your rear-view mirror for a Peace Garden State plate on the front bumper of an F-150 or a Tahoe heading to the big game at 80-plus mph. Get over or get run over. Who gets the ticket? The Fargo fan cruising 10 or 15 mph over the limit or the Minnesota taxpayer going 75 mph...but too slow?

If you’re a detail-oriented driver, you’ve noticed the rough road surface on the right lane of I-94 between Clearwater and Monticello. If you stay in the right lane for the entire 16-mile stretch, you may have the fillings jarred out of your teeth. Move to the left lane and be ready to roll at 75 to 80 mph or risk high-beam lights in your mirror, finger gestures or tailgating.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is working to fix that problem this summer by “diamond grinding” to smooth the road surface.

With or without North Dakota drivers and rough roads, the speed of traffic under “existing conditions” will still be much faster than the posted speed limit.

Maybe drivers are different in Sen. Jasinski’s home turf on I-35 around Faribault. But before the Legislature votes, I’d like him to ride with my wife on I-94.

Don’t turn Dreamers into deportees

For weeks, ever since the fate of the DACA Dreamers has been in doubt, I keep hearing in my head a haunting lament written nearly 70 years ago.

The song, its words penned by that feisty American balladeer Woody Guthrie, is “Deportee (Plane Wreck at Los Gatos).” Check it out on YouTube. It’s been sung by almost every top singer under the sun – from Odetta to Dolly Parton, from Bob Dylan to Bruce Springsteen.

Here is the song’s refrain:

“Goodbye to my Juan, goodbye Rosalita.
Adios mis amigos, Jesus y Maria.
You won’t have your names when you ride the big airplane
All they will call you will be deportees.”

On Jan. 28, 1948, which happens to be my birthday, a plane filled with Mexican crop workers crashed in Los Gatos Canyon near Fresno, Calif. All aboard died in the fiery crash, including the four American crew members and the 28 guest workers, three of them women. The U.S. Immigration Service was flying them back to Mexico.

Guthrie, living in New York City at the time, read about the catastrophe in the *New York Times* and was disturbed the story mentioned the names of the crew members but none of the names of the Mexican victims. As often happened when Guthrie’s sense of outrage was riled up, he wrote a poem about it. Later, a schoolteacher, Martin Hoffman, created a beautiful melody for the words.

What Guthrie didn’t know at the time was that the Fresno newspa-

per did, in fact, print all the names of the deceased. But, never mind, because with many a great song, it’s the meaning and spirit of the song (not so much facts) that carry the day and that live on.

The meaning and spirit of “Deportee” is that very often the “other,” the “foreigner, the “outsider,” the “not us” are considered mere statistics, numbers, things that can be used and discarded. People turned into objects – made faceless, nameless, invisible. That is why, in his moving song, Guthrie gave back names to the workers – Juan, Rosalita, Jesus, Maria. He restored their humanity.

The victims of the plane crash, sad to say, remained nameless even in death. They were buried in a mass grave.

The U.S. Congress, paralyzed once again by its reckless, insensitive deadlock, still has not passed a bill, as promised, to protect the nearly 1.5-million “Dreamers” from deportation. Those are people who were brought to this country when they were children and who now live and work here productively in virtually every field, blue-collar and professional, including serving in the military.

Will the day come, as in the song, when they will become rejected, tossed out, forgotten, when all we will call them will be deportees?

In 1942, Congress passed what

Dennis
Dalman
Reporter



is known as the “Braceros” agreement with Mexico, a way for Mexican manual laborers (braceros in Spanish) to work in the United States to help with a vast labor shortage during World War II. The workers, after their months of hard labor, would be transported back to Mexico by the companies (mostly agricultural ones) that needed their labor. If the contractors welched on that promise, the workers would be transported back by the U.S. Immigration Service. That was the situation when the plane crashed near Fresno.

“The sky plane caught fire over Los Gatos Canyon,
A fireball of lightning, and shook all our hills,
Who are all these friends, all scattered like dry leaves?
The radio says, They are just deportees.”

Let’s insist our legislators and our president drop their petty, inhumane disputes long enough to pass a DACA Relief Act. To keep those good young people in a limbo of anguish and uncertainty is nothing less than criminal.

We should take time to recall that other great Guthrie song, our “other” national anthem, “This land is your land, this land is my land . . . This land was made for you and me.”

By all means, strengthen the border, deport lawbreakers and (this one’s a tall order) pass comprehensive immigration reform.

In the meantime and that means now, let’s demand lax legislators not turn these dedicated Dreamers into dejected deportees.

Library

from front page

reading the books aloud. The children, all pre-teens, are twin girls Breanna, Lillian and their brother, Grant.

“They loved getting those books,” Kurowski said. “We must have read them aloud a million times.”

Kurowski is a book lover. She studied English and mass communications and is a free-lance nonfiction writer in many categories, in addition to being a marketing strategist, mainly for four major food companies.

Participants in the Imagination Library Progressive Dinner start the evening at one of three reception homes – Sartell, St. Cloud and – new on the rounds this year – St. Joseph. At the reception homes, after a social hour, they will receive envelopes containing information on which homes they will go to for their next dinner stops – for first course and then main course.

Kurowski’s specialty will be a first-course stop. She will serve it at the Tom and Sandy Nadeau home in St. Cloud. Helping her will be her *sous chef*, good friend Erin Flemer of Sartell.

Kurowski cannot divulge what she is making; it’s supposed to be a surprise. However, suffice to say, it’s German, scintillating, festive and packs a punch.

While growing up in Little Falls, Kurowski, her sister and their parents often enjoyed homemade German dinners, especially at Christmas. Their parents had lived during their early married years in Germany where they’d become fond of that country’s cuisine. The treat Kurowski will serve comes from that family at-home holiday tradition.

Parton’s mission

Founded in 1995, the Imagination Library was the brain child of musical icon Dolly Parton as a way to honor the memory of her father, who never learned how to read.

The program, which mails free storybooks to children ages 0-5, began in the hill country of east Tennessee, where Parton grew up in an economically poor family. But it quickly expanded to include children throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia.

Parents sign up for the program, then each month a book

is sent free to their children.

“When I was growing up in the hills of east Tennessee, I knew my dreams would come true,” Parton has written. “I know there are children in your community with their own dreams. They dream of becoming a doctor or an inventor or a minister. Who knows, maybe there is a little girl whose dream is to be a writer and singer. The seeds of those dreams are often found in books, and the seeds you help plant in your community can grow across the world.”

So far, 100.9 million books have been mailed to children, whose current membership totals 1.2 million. Many more children were involved through the years but have since turned age 6 or more.

United Way

The United Way of Central Minnesota began funding the local area’s Imagination Library 12 years ago, and 1.3 million books were received by children during that time.

Books are age-appropriate. The first one a child receives is *The Little Engine That Could*, and the last, just before turning age 6, is *Kindergarten, Here I Come!*

Lori Eich of Sauk Rapids is the director of individual giving for the United Way. This year’s Imagination Library goal, she noted, is to raise \$50,000. In the past 12 years, \$190,000 was raised, which helped pay for books sent via Parton’s Dollywood Foundation.

Eich’s own children – Coltin, now 12; and Carleigh, 10 – were also recipients of Imagination Library books. She can remember vividly how excited her children became when the books would arrive in the mail and how much fun the family had reading them together.

“There are about 120 more children each year on the program,” Eich said. “There is a waiting list now. As children go



contributed photo

Rebecca Kurowski of Sartell prepares a meal in her kitchen. She will create a specialty for an upcoming Imagination Library Progressive Dinner.

beyond the age of 5, new ones are always being added.”

This year’s progressive dinner will involve 135 volunteers and close to an estimated 300 diners.

To find out more about the event, call Eich at 320-229-3501 or 320-761-2571. Contributions to the program can be sent to United Way of Central Minnesota Imagination Library Fund, 921 First St. N., Suite 200, St. Cloud, Minn. 56303.

Community Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374; fax it to 320-363-4195; or, e-mail it to news@thenewsleaders.com. Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.

Friday, March 30
Benton County Museum, 10

a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Monday, April 2
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.
Sartell Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., upstairs of Blue Line Sports Bar and-Grill, 1101 Second St. S., Sartell. 320-267-2591.

Wednesday, April 4
Recovery Innovations Breakfast featuring Carol Falkowski, former director of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Voyageurs Room, Atwood Center, St. Cloud State University. http://tinyurl.com/scsecurecoverybreakfast.
St. Stephen City Council, 6:30 p.m., St. Stephen City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave. SE.

Thursday, April 5
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.
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group featuring Natalie Ringsmuth who is the founder and director of #unitecloud, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.
Stearns Electric Association annual meeting, including districts 4, 5 and 9 election of director to the co-operative’s board. 7-9 p.m., Melrose High School Auditorium, 545 Fifth Ave. NE, Melrose. 320-363-4630.

Friday, April 6
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Saturday, April 7
Craft Vendor Garage Sale, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., Bernick’s Pepsi Arena 1109 First St. S., Sartell.
Winter Market, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N. marketmonday.org.

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