

Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader

Friday, April 6, 2018
Volume 23, Issue 14
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Senior Connection hosts monarch butterflies talk

The Sartell Senior Connection will host a talk on monarch butterflies at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 10 at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Kirsten Boehne has been a butterfly enthusiast since she was a young girl. She raised her first monarchs when she was in elementary school. Now, decades later, she has raised several hundred. Kirsten has become an advocate and teacher sharing her love of monarchs and butterflies with local community groups and organizations. She will be talking about the life of a monarch butterfly and show how to raise them in order to increase the survival of these beautiful creatures.

Sartell Winter Market set Saturday at city hall

The Sartell Winter Market will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 7 inside Sartell City Hall. Welcome spring with great items for the grill. Some items available this month include: meat, eggs, popcorn, treats and much more. Learn about what is new for the 2018 summer season including the opening dates and the exciting new vendors for the 2018 season.

Friendly visitor

Develop a special friendship with a resident or multiple residents at Country Manor Campus. Visit with them on a regular basis, preferably once a week. Establish a friendship with residents and let them know you're interested in them. Help the residents maintain or regain a positive self-image. Chat about everyday affairs, write letters, play games, encourage participation in activities, take them outside to see the bird aviary or duck pond. Take some time to listen to a piece of their history and life experiences. For more information, visit thenewsleaders.com and click on April 6 Criers.

Share love of music

Opportunity Matters is seeking volunteers who play an instrument to share their passion for music with individuals with physical and/or cognitive challenges. Volunteers usually play for 30 minutes to one hour. Days, evenings, weekday or weekend times available. Open to all ages. For more information, visit thenewsleaders.com and click on April 6 Criers.

INSERTS:
City of St. Stephen
Country Manor
Senior Housing

Big audience gathers for drawdown meeting

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Who in the world would wish for a drought?

Nobody probably, except for the folks who are concerned with Little Rock Lake near Rice. A drought, they believe, would restore that sick lake back to health and also help the Mississippi River north of Sartell.

And that was the subject of a two-hour meeting March 28 at Rice Village Hall, attended by more than 150 people. They included residents of Little Rock Lake and many people who live along the river north of Sartell. There are nearly 100 Sartell-area residents who live along that stretch of river, often referred to as the Sartell river pool. Some have objected to the drawdown planned for this summer and have asked why should people along the river sacrifice recreational options for a lake.

Some have suggested a coffer-dam solution to lower the lake's level, but officials rejected that solution because of expense, noise and the danger of a breach and massive flooding.

Thus, an "enforced drought" (also known as lake-river drawdown) is just what the doctor ordered, according to the presenters at the Rice meeting. It was just the latest in many meetings during the past three years about the drawdown plan.

Lowering the river north of the Sartell dam by 3 feet will expose areas of lake and river bottoms so sun and air exposure will kill algae and new beneficial plants will take root and grow. The results? A decrease in phosphorus that causes algal growth, and thus improved water clarity and quality that promotes plant habitats for fish and waterfowl.

One Sartell resident at the



photo by Dennis Dalman

Attendees gathered in small groups and voiced questions and concerns. Later, a spokesperson for each group shared the questions with the group at large and the questions were written down on big paper sheets at the front of the large meeting hall.

March 28 meeting was former city mayor, Joe Perske, who is now a Stearns County commissioner. He said he attended the meeting for two reasons – the drawdown area is in his commissioner district and because

he would like to see health restored to Little Rock Lake. When Perske was a boy, back in the mid-1960s, he would often visit his grandfather, Emil Perske, who had a cabin home

Drawdown • page 7

Keep eyes wide open for Sartell artifacts

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

As memories fade, as townspeople get older and pass on, town history often disappears with them.

That is why a group of people is determined to start a renewed Sartell Historical Society.

One of them is distinguished historian and author Bill Morgan of Sartell. Morgan, his wife Judy and about eight others have been meeting, brainstorming and trying to form a plan of action to form a historical society and to

find a secure place, if not an actual museum, in which to house many Sartell artifacts.

One of the group members, Kaye Wenker, has stored thousands of artifacts in her house for years, ever since the Sartell Centennial, 2007, which Wenker helped spearhead. At that time, many Sartell residents scoured attics, basements, garages and memory trunks and came up with interesting scraps from the past to share at city hall and elsewhere as part of the centennial celebrations.

After the birthday hoopla

faded, however, Wenker had no choice but to use her home as a repository for the artifacts: photos, implements, books, letters, trinkets and even a long logging pole used to maneuver logs in the river by the old paper mill.

Other members of the history group are lifelong Sartell residents Ron Hurd, Jack McCann, Maggie Kraemer and Jeff Sartell, who lives in Princeton and who is a descendent of Joseph Sartell, for whom the city is named. Several members, including the Morgans, are members of the Sartell Senior Connection.

"We've been meeting for a couple of months," said Judy Morgan. "We feel strongly, passionately in reactivating a historical society for Sartell. We are trying to get the word out to others. We are trying to get younger people interested, and we know we can do that because we know there are younger people here who are very interested in Sartell's history."

Unfortunately, some Sartell residents think the city doesn't have a real history, that it was always just a pale shadow of near-

Artifacts • page 4



photo by Dave DeMars

Site manager John Waletzko shows the two additional curriculum wings of the future high school that will house math, English, languages and social studies. The very upper levels will contain the mechanical heaters and air-conditioning equipment.

Update, photo tour of new high school

by Dave DeMars
news@thenewsleaders.com

Six months ago there were large earth-moving machines pushing mounds of dirt, loading trucks and readying the site. Today three skeleton frameworks mark the classroom portions of what will be the new high school. Behind the framework sits other enclosed portions of the school.

Today is a tour of the construction site to see what has been accomplished and to help readers imagine what different

sections of the school might look like once finished. The ground is still frozen and the weather is still chilly despite the warmth of a sunny March day.

Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert led the way through an entrance on the northwest side of the building through what will be the large doors of the scene shop at the back of the theater stage.

To see more photos of the new high school construction, visit thenewsleaders.com.

In business

Traut Cos. was key to an investigation surrounding two decades-old municipal wells in St. Anthony Village.

Of primary concern was the wells' proximity to an area with well restrictions to protect aquifers. Investigation into the location of the wells was completed by Minnesota Department of Health by investigative drilling by Traut to verify the material in the wells and determine if the required liner casings were present.

Traut drilled out both wells and discovered they had ungrouted liner casings which could allow downward movement of water and contaminants to aquifers. The wells were then resealed. By completing the project groundwater was safeguarded for St. Anthony Village and public health was protected.

Mary Jepperson, a professor of accounting and finance at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University recently joined the board of directors at Stearns Bank National Association. Jepperson began her ca-

reer in the Minneapolis office of Coopers & Lybrand, where she became the office's first female partner. She is experienced in forensic accounting and litigation services.

Dr. Sara Cuperus was recently named Minnesota Chiropractic Association's president for the 2018-2019 fiscal year at its annual meeting. Dr. Cuperus is the owner of Chiropractic Performance Center in Sartell.

Cuperus has served the Minnesota Chiropractic Association in numerous ways throughout the years, serving first at a local and district level and then at state level the past four years. Her chiropractic practice specializes in treating athletes and pediatric/prenatal care with post-graduate certification in both areas. She hosts interns from Northwestern Health Sciences University regularly as well as from the local high schools. Chiropractic Performance Center opened in 2003.



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People

Three Sartell students have been named to the dean's list for fall semester at St. John's University.

Elliot Edeburn, son of An-Elise Edeburn, is a first-year political science major; **Matthew Immelman**, son of Pamela and Aubrey Immelman, is a sophomore economics and hispanic studies major; and **Matthew Michaud**, son of Shelly Smith, is a sophomore accounting major.

To be included on the dean's list, students must earn a minimum 3.8 grade-

point average.

Seven Sartell students were recently named to the fall semester dean's list at the College of St. Benedict. They are: **Amelia Barkley**, daughter of Julie and Jim Barkley, a senior economics major; **Michaela Connolly**, daughter of Lori and Michael Connolly, a senior nursing major; **Alexis Flaherty**, daughter of Stacie and Robert Flaherty, a senior nursing major; **Madison Flaherty**, daughter of Stacie and Robert Flaherty, a junior

nursing major; **Dana Svensson**, daughter of Margaret and Michael Svensson, a senior history and philosophy major; **Rebecca Windschitl**, daughter of Jacqueline and Michael Windschitl, a senior biology and pre-medicine major; and **Hannah Wohletz**, daughter of Sandy and Frank Wohletz, a junior nursing major.

To be included on the dean's list, students must have a minimum 3.8 grade-point average.



contributed photo

The Granite City Gearheads team includes (front row, left to right) Kaylin Fischer, Lori Dale, Rose Kellner, Natalie Fischer and Hannah Applegate; (second row) Barb Fischer, Colton Hennek, Carter Calhoun, Donovan Magney, David Dale, Bridget Applegate and Corey Applegate; (back row) Dave Fischer, Gavin Peabody, Justin Fischer, Jaeger Johnson, Zachary Asplund, Christopher Schweiger, Austin Applegate, Nicholas Asplund and Taylor Bauer. Johnson and Calhoun are from Sartell.

Granite City Gearheads, the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition Team from the St. Cloud district competed in the Medtronic Foundation Regional competition this weekend; 60 teams attended, mostly from Minnesota, but some came from as far as Florida and the Czech Republic.

The team includes Carter Calhoun and Jaeger Johnson,

who both attend Sartell High School, and Rose Kellner of St. Joseph.

This year's challenge was titled FIRST POWER-UP, themed after classic eight-bit arcade games. Robots had to collect "power-up cubes" and stack them on scales and switches in order to maintain control for the longest time in order to score more points. At the end of a match, teams may climb the center scale to

earn more points.

The Gearheads ranked ninth in the competition and advanced to the eighth seed when two higher ranked teams joined together during alliance selection.

As a result of being the eighth seed, the Gearheads formed their own alliance and went on to earn second place and a spot in the World Championship in Detroit on April 25-28.

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Published each Friday by Von Meyer Publishing Inc.

Publisher/Owner
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Newsleader staff members have the responsibility to report news fairly and accurately and are accountable to the public. Readers who feel we've fallen short of these standards are urged to call the Newsleader office at 320-363-7741. If matters cannot be resolved locally, readers are encouraged to take complaints to the Minnesota News Council, an independent agency designed to improve relationships between the public and the media and resolve conflicts. The council office may be reached at 612-341-9357.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ST. JOSEPH NEWSLEADER, P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, MN 56374.

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.

March 21

8:25 a.m. Traffic stop. Seventh Street N. and Seventh Avenue N. Officers received an anonymous tip two teenagers were smoking marijuana in a parked car off of the Sartell High School campus. Officers arrived and observed a vehicle matching the description in the complaint. An officer conducted a stop on the vehicle and met with the two juvenile male occupants. While speaking with the pair, the officer observed a strong odor of marijuana and asked if there was any contraband in the car. The boy in the passenger seat handed the officer a jar of what appeared to be marijuana. Due to the smell emitting from the vehicle, the officer decided to conduct a search of the vehicle. Inside the vehicle the officer found a bottle of vodka, a flask and a black pistol style BB handgun. The green leafy substance in the jar field-tested positive for marijuana and weighed 5.8 grams. Due to the boys being juveniles, they were cited for possession of alcohol and marijuana. The officer took possession of the pistol and advised the boy it belonged to he could pick it up at the police station at a later date. The parties were explained their citations and released.

March 22

2:17 p.m. Vehicle accident. Benton Drive and Ridge Road. Sartell and Sauk Rapids police officers were dispatched to a motor-vehicle crash involving injures near the intersection of Benton Drive and Ridge Road in Sartell. Sauk Rapids police arrived first and located the two vehicles. Vehicle one was disabled and blocking the southbound lane of traffic. Vehicle two was in the east ditch and the driver was trapped inside. Sauk Rapids fire arrived and performed extrication. Sartell officers arrived and conducted the traffic investigation. Officers determined vehicle two crossed the center line causing the impact. Digital photos of the scene were taken and an accident exchange form was completed. Only the driver of vehicle two was transported to the hospital. Airbags in both vehicles deployed.

March 23

8:35 p.m. Traffic stop. Division Street W. While on Toward Zero Deaths Patrol, an officer observed a vehicle traveling directly in front of him. The officer ran a license-plate check and discovered the registered owner had a revoked license. The officer conducted a stop on the vehicle for the violation. The officer met with the driver and told her the reason for the stop. The driver identified herself as the registered owner and admitted to not having a valid license. The driver was released after being issued and explained a citation for driving while revoked. The vehicle was released to a valid driver.

March 24

12:26 p.m. Intoxicated person. 11th Street North. Officers were

dispatched to a residence for a report of an intoxicated man. Officers were told the man had fallen due to his intoxication level. Upon arrival, officers located the man and his wife on the couch in the living room of their home. The woman stated she had arrived home from work and found her husband highly intoxicated. The man stated to officers he had been drinking vodka and had not slept. Because the man was diabetic, officers checked the his blood sugar and received a reading of 294. A preliminary breath test indicated the man was three times the legal limit of .08. Gold Cross Ambulance was dispatched to take over the assessment. The man was not transported to the hospital but was left in the care of his wife.

March 25

6:30 p.m. Behavioral health. Sartell. Officers were dispatched for a report of a man who had made suicidal comments and was possibly in possession of a gun. Officers arrived and met with the complainant. The woman stated her husband had made self-harming comments after a discussion about divorce. The woman said her husband had left and his gun was no longer in the house. Officers learned the man was possibly at his son's residence in Sauk Rapids. Sauk Rapids police were dispatched to respond to the residence, where they located the man at his son's residence and transported him to St. Cloud Hospital due to comments made during an interview. The gun was found to be properly stored and locked at the son's residence.

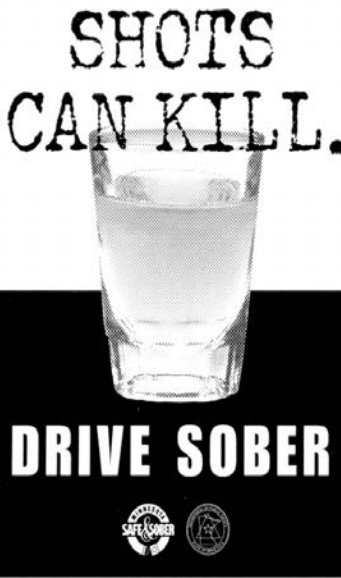
March 26

7:40 p.m. ATV. 20th Avenue

N. Officers were dispatched to a driving complaint involving two all-terrain vehicles. Officers arrived and observed two ATVs in the driveway of a residence. Officers made contact with a boy at the residence who admitted he and another boy had been doing donuts in the street. The boy also stated his mother was on vacation. Officers were able to make contact with the mother by phone and advised her of their findings. The mother stated she was unaware but would take care of the situation when she arrived home. Officers released the boy after verbally warning him for driving an ATV on a city street.

March 27

8:28 a.m. Medical. 520 First Street NE. Officers were dispatched to Country Manor Health Care Center for a report of an elderly man who was feeling weak and was unable to walk or stand. Officers and found the man in his room. The man was in distress and complaining of severe back pain. Officers supplied high-flow oxygen and monitored the man until Gold Cross arrived on. Officers then assisted paramedics in loading the patient for transport to St. Cloud Hospital.



News
Tips?
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Correction

Heidi Everett, a DFL-endorsed candidate for Minnesota House District 13B, said she is currently not in favor of legalizing recreational use of marijuana, as stated in a story about her candidacy in the March 30

Newsleader: "We do not fully understand the societal impacts of such a change, and my belief is we should be watching and learning from the many states that have legalized marijuana to fully understand its impact."

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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.





contributed photo

The Sartell dam has played a big role in the city’s history, including the production of electricity for the paper mill. More recently, starting this August, the dam will be used to lower the river level for six weeks as part of the Little Rock Lake and Mississippi River “drawdown” project that is expected to improve water quality.

Artifacts

from front page

by St. Cloud, Bill Morgan said.
Morgan is a retired American studies professor from St. Cloud State University and an author of five history books. He is keenly aware of Sartell’s interesting history since the days when it was just a small village by a paper mill.
“Many people think Sartell is an extension of St. Cloud,” Morgan said. “This viewpoint implies Sartell lacks its own history, a

sense of place or a culture with its own distinctive roots. We believe Sartell does have a history, one that extends from the days of Native American habitation to today’s bustling modern city.”
In a recent essay he wrote, Morgan delivered a warning about how quickly a city can lose its history.
“Many of Sartell’s historic features have vanished or soon will, including its original downtown, the paper mill and the iconic Fasen round barn. Those and other physical features now exist solely in photographs, recorded histories and memories held by

local citizens.”
Unless those artifacts can be preserved, preferably in a secure museum, time will march on, leaving artifacts to neglect, forgetfulness and oblivion.
“Most small towns and cities across the state support museums where a community’s heritage can be displayed,” Morgan said. “All kinds of artifacts today are stored in the homes of Sartell citizens. Efforts should be made to collect, catalogue and select materials for displays.”
Morgan said all residents in Sartell, including newcomers so far unaware of the city’s history, should keep the following topics in mind. Each of them is brim-

ming with historical significance, he noted.
The Mississippi River. The Native Americans who lived by it, the explorers who traveled on it and how it became the sight of the paper mill more than 100 years ago.
Native American History. Watab Creek was long ago a dividing line between the sometimes warring Dakota and Ojibwe nations. A 100-year section of the old “Indian Trail” still remains north of the creek’s mouth.
Oxcarts. Between 1845 and 1870, oxcart caravans traveled through the township on journeys between St. Paul and Winnipeg. A few oxcart ruts can still be seen near the site of the vanished village of Watab in east Sartell.
The Sartell Family. Massachusetts native Joseph B. Sartell arrived at the future site of Sartell in 1854 and erected a sawmill. He and his wife, Lucinda, built a homestead the next year. Many of his descendents still live in Sartell.
Nehemiah P. Clarke. In the late 19th Century, this entrepreneur who came to St. Cloud farmed 1,600 acres in LeSauk Township where he bred horses, cattle and sheep, many imported from England. He called his breed of shorthorns “Meadow Lawn,” and that is the name of the patio-home neighborhood on that same site today – the one, in fact, where Bill and Judy Morgan live.
“I like to look out the window and imagine how it was when N.P. Clarke farmed here,” Bill said.
The paper mill. Since 1905, the paper mill, through its various names and ownerships, was an economic bedrock of Sartell until its demise several years ago after an explosion forced its closure.
The DeZurik Family. Mathew DeZurik was a young millwright at the paper mill who invented several products that caused him to open his own business. It became the other economic bedrock of Sartell and thrives to this day, its valves used throughout the world.
Contemporary Sartell. For many years, Sartell’s population hovered at about 800 people. The boom time happened between 1970 and the present with business and residential development leading to a population in excess of 15,000. A museum could feature the growth and its many permutations through time.

Judy Morgan said the history group wants to remind all people in Sartell to keep an eye open for traces of history that may be right under their noses – in old cardboard boxes stored in attics, in basements, in storage rooms. Spring-cleaning can often produce wonderful historical relics.
“And each one of them has a story to tell,” she said.
So far, the informal history group has no solid plans for a storage facility or a museum. However, they are definitely going to come up with some ideas and recommendations and need input from Sartell residents. More information, including perhaps some public-meeting dates, will be announced in the near future.
In the meantime, the group is asking people in Sartell to keep their eyes wide open for any historical artifacts they may come across.

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photo by Hannah Bous
Hannah Bous’ winning photo taken at homecoming.

Sartell student wins photo award

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell High School senior Hannah Bous was selected as a finalist in the 38th annual Photographer’s Forum’s College & High School Photography Contest.

Her photo, taken at the Sartell-St. Stephen school district’s homecoming parade, was selected out of 12,000 photographs from students around the world.

Bous is a teaching assistant for photography teacher Angela Heckman and has spent three years working with Heckman for the *Sartell Scabbard*, the high school yearbook.

Bous says her interest in photography was sparked when her brother began taking pictures for his yearbook class when she was about 12 years old. “He would teach me everything he was learning,” Bous said.

Bous said one of her favorite yearbook memories was when she took the winning photo. Her camera wasn’t working, so Heckman, “came to the rescue! She was so kind to lend me her nice camera; without it, I wouldn’t have been able to take the picture.”

Bous plans to attend St. Cloud Technical & Community College for two years to get her marketing degree. She hopes to secure a job that involves “creating any type of art.”

Community garden plots still available, call now

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Tired of winter? Hankering to start gardening?

There are several plots available at the Sartell Community Garden. Each can be used for a seasonal fee of \$25, and that includes watering provided by the city, as well as tillage of fertilization, also provided as part of the seasonal fee. Gardeners can also use garden tools provided by the city that are kept in storage sheds on-site. There are compost heaps also on-site for weeds and other debris from the garden plots.

The only requirement is one must be a Sartell resident.

There are two locations for the Sartell Community Garden – 96 plots west of Oak Ridge Elementary School and 10 plots on the east side of the city near the

water plant. Each plot is 20 feet by 20 feet.

The Sartell Community Garden was established about 10 years ago by gardening volunteers and Sartell residents Kaye Wenker and Dennis Molitor, with help and coordination with city staff and the city’s public works department.

“We have several openings currently,” Molitor said. “And we will probably have several more this spring because some who had plots move out of the city.”

Molitor said anyone interested should apply for a plot as soon as possible because there will likely be a waiting list, and plots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

To request a plot, call Molitor at 320-252-7055 and leave your name and your phone number.



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\$11.98 Russian River Chardonnay & Alexander Valley Zinfandel



6⁹⁸
Bogle
750ml
Chardonnay & Merlot
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9⁹⁸
Kendall Jackson
750ml
Vintners Reserve Chardonnay, Vintners Reserve Pinot Gris, Avant Chardonnay
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All Available Types



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Opinion

Our View

There’s no way to save daylight

After long, dark winters, the time to “spring forward” marks the symbolic beginning of summer.

We look forward to long summer evenings enjoying outdoor recreation until well after 9 p.m.

As we enter April with golf courses and softball fields covered by snow and with the outdoor temperature more appropriate for downhill skiing than water skiing, the March 11 switch to “summertime,” as the British call it, seems to be a joke.

Some people would like to make daylight-saving time permanent. The clocks would move ahead and stay there.

Permanent daylight-saving time is a bad idea.

The Florida legislature recently overwhelmingly passed the cleverly named Sunshine Protection Act. As Minnesota snowbirds will tell you, Florida is a perfect place to enjoy another hour of evening daylight year-round.

For years, New Englanders argued for extending daylight-saving time to their region for the entire year. Because they are at the far east edge of the sprawling Eastern Time Zone, winter sunsets come early.

Congress established daylight-saving time as well as standard time in 1918. Daylight-saving time was repealed a year later, after strident objections from farmers, who preferred having more light in the morning, not in the evening. Daylight-saving time returned during World War II and then became an issue for state and local governments until the Uniform Time Act of 1966.

In response to the 1973 energy crisis, daylight time began earlier in 1974 and 1975. In 1976, the United States reverted to the schedule set in the Uniform Time Act because of late winter sunrise times.

Proponents of permanent daylight-saving time argue it saves energy because lights get turned on later in the day. Opponents say the longer evenings coax people out to play and shop...in their cars...which drives gasoline consumption.

Researchers assert the twice-yearly clock changes affect our productivity. The week after a time change has been found to lead to more car and work accidents, heart attacks and headaches, as well as decreased work productivity. It’s estimated the resulting loss in productivity costs the United States economy \$434 million a year.

Calling the twice-yearly time changes daylight-saving time really sounds more like a marketing term than science. Daylight really isn’t saved. One person’s daylight saved is another person’s daylight lost.

Let’s look at the clock. In late June, we enjoy long days. The sun sets after 9 p.m. (daylight time) after more than 15 hours and 40 minutes of daylight.

But now the bad news. In late December, there’s a lot less daylight to save. There are about 8 hours and 40 minutes of daylight to spend. With standard time, December sunrises are just before 8 a.m. With year-round daylight-saving time, the sun would rise just before 9 a.m. – long after most of us have left for school or work.

Let Florida protect sunshine.

How to get around a roundabout argument

Mike
Knaak

Editor



Religion and politics. Those are two topics that should never be discussed if you want to keep a conversation friendly and flowing. By bringing up one of those topics, you’ll find everyone has deeply held opinions they will gladly and enthusiastically share.

I’d like to add roundabouts to that list of hot topics.

The *Newsleader* staff meets on Friday mornings to talk about story and advertising plans, to critique the latest editions and deal with other mundane issues such as days off.

I recently derailed our smoothly running meeting by mentioning the plans for more roundabouts in Sartell.

It turns out, some of my colleagues hate roundabouts, believe they are a threat to public safety and in general are a bad idea. Others praise their efficiency and safety.

Traffic engineers will tell you they prefer roundabouts because they are safer, improve traffic flow and result in better fuel economy. T-bone crashes decrease, pedestrians easily cross the street and motorists move through the intersection with less delay.

Statistics show there are 37 percent fewer collisions, 75 percent fewer injuries and 90 percent fewer fatalities after intersections are converted to roundabouts.

Central Minnesota traffic engineers embraced roundabouts in the past five to 10 years. My informal count reveals Sartell leads the way with 11

and two more planned. When Sauk Rapids and Benton County reconstructed Second Street N./CR 3, six roundabouts sprouted. You’ll find my favorite roundabout collection straddling the Waite Park/St. Cloud border near the new Tech High School. Motorists exiting Minnesota Hwy. 15 at Graniteview Road encounter four roundabouts in a half-mile stretch of 33rd Street S.

Roundabouts may present exciting new challenges for central Minnesota drivers, but they’ve been standard traffic features on the East Coast and Europe for years, where they are often called rotaries or traffic circles.

My first roundabout driving adventure happened during a family vacation in Ireland years ago.

In addition to frequent traffic circles, the good people of Ireland drive very fast on the wrong side of the road.

Stone walls or hedges line the narrow roads in rural Ireland to add to the driving excitement.

For our travels in the challenging motoring environment, we rented a compact car. The purple Honda Fit (called a Jazz in Ireland) was a lit-

tle cozy for four adults and luggage. I would not describe the vehicle as jazzy and I don’t see a connection to music that originated in the American South. But the Jazz was well-matched to rural Ireland driving.

If you find entering the wide, well-marked roundabouts in Minnesota challenging, try approaching one on the “wrong” side of the road from a narrow, stone-walled path.

Surprisingly I mastered the technique after a few tries, to the amusement of my spouse and daughters.

After a few miles of driving, we did notice an odd roadside feature. Rearview mirrors littered the roadsides at the base of the stone walls or hedges. Apparently, drivers who misjudged their speed or the roadway width were penalized by getting their mirrors ripped off.

Despite these perils, Ireland’s traffic death rate is half as high as the rate in the United States.

Historians believe the phrase “luck of the Irish” originated with the good fortunes of Irish gold and silver miners.

I disagree. Luck of the Irish has more to do with safe driving by speeding motorists on narrow, wall-lined roads.

So central Minnesota drivers, embrace roundabouts – or traffic circles or rotaries. They are safe, efficient traffic features.

And limit the emotional conversations to religion and politics.

Are Trump’s Cabinet exits cause for concern?

Connor
Kockler

Guest Writer



During the last several weeks, there has been much drama in the Trump administration. Early in March, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was pushed out in favor of CIA Director Mike Pompeo. Even more recently, Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin was also fired. It’s increasingly becoming a trend, but is it something we need to be concerned about, or just the new way of doing things from our unconventional commander-in-chief?

Shulkin’s departure marks the fifth Cabinet-level official to either be removed or selected for another role by Trump, as former Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly was when he moved to chief of staff last July. By comparison, at the same point in time during his presidency, Barack Obama had no changes to Cabinet-level officials, though three would leave or move a few months later. George W. Bush’s Cabinet was even more fixed, only experiencing one departure his first two years.

Clearly something is running differently. Looking at the context, three of Trump’s departures – Tom Price, Tillerson and Shulkin – have been outright fired, while Kelly and Pompeo have been moved up. Of the fired three, both Price and Shulkin had faced scandal over travel expenses, while Tillerson had been at loggerheads with the president for months. Is the Trump administration more prone to scandal then? Not quite, as Obama’s first Attorney General Eric Holder, after being held in contempt of Congress over an investigation, remained in office for almost three more years.

President Trump then, is taking

more aggressive action in shaping his Cabinet, removing those not performing to his liking and shifting people to new positions he believes they’d be well-suited for. Though this may seem out of the trend in the United States, Trump’s actions more closely fit the global norm. Our northern neighbors Canada under the leadership of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had eight Cabinet members change in the same time period as Trump’s five. In not even a year, the United Kingdom and Theresa May went through an election and seven Cabinet changes.

Why is Trump’s Cabinet considered to be in such shambles by American standards? Part of the reason is constitutional and the other cultural. Canada and the United Kingdom both operate under a parliamentary system, meaning the legislature elects the prime minister as leader of the country, who then appoints their Cabinet ministers. Prime ministers have the power to appoint and dismiss their ministers unilaterally, only being checked by whether their government continues to be supported by a majority of members in the legislature.

However, in the United States, the president has a few more hoops to jump through before he/she can put Cabinet secretaries into place. Once

the president has nominated a Cabinet hopeful, they must be confirmed by the Senate by a majority vote. This has historically served two main purposes, allowing time to critique the president’s nominees and determine their fitness for office, and to deter the president from changing the Cabinet too much during their tenure and thus provide stability.

Culturally, the United States is much more used to having the executive checked by a strong legislative power, in contrast to the parliamentary nations mentioned earlier where prime ministers have immense powers inherent to their office. Trump’s actions may be indicative of a larger shift, as the president of the United States continues to accumulate more power and influence at the expense of the other branches.

No matter what you think about President Trump, the next few years will be interesting to watch as this still rookie administration continues to develop in power. The Cabinet is one of the most influential and important institutions in our politics, as its members administer millions of employees and trillions of budget dollars in their departments that have power over many aspects of our lives. Whether the high level of turnover in Trump’s Cabinet and other positions is just an early bump in the road or a chronic issue remains to be seen. Maybe this new style of governance is here to stay.

Connor Kockler is a Sauk Rapids-Rice High School student. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.

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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.

Drawdown

from front page

on that lake. Perske said he remembers how much fun he had on that lake – boating, fishing, swimming – years before it became slimy-green with algae. At the March 28 meeting, attendees gathered in small groups of about seven to 12 people and voiced questions and concerns. Later, a spokesperson for each group shared the questions with the group at large and the questions were written down on big paper sheets at the front of the large meeting hall. Then, the questions were answered by Eric Altena, manager of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Fisheries, Little Falls office. Altena has led many meetings about the proposed drawdown in the past few years. Another speaker at the March 28 gathering was Kevin Win-

kelman, an official with River Creek Energy, which owns the hydroelectric dam in Sartell. Along with Altena, Winkelman noted the recreational drawbacks to the drawdown. During the six-week drawdown period (Aug. 1-Sept. 15), river residents and visitors should be on guard against river rocks and possibly logs near or above the surface of the water level, and swimmers should beware of diving into areas that are suddenly shallower due to the drawdown. Residents at the lake and river will be allowed to keep river’s edge area free of weeds by raking, scraping them up, but no excavation or use of heavy equipment will be allowed by law. What if hooligans using all-terrain vehicles go riding around on exposed river- or lake-bottom areas, especially after the bars close? Altena said both sheriff’s departments (Stearns and Benton) will be ready to answer

any complaints to that effect. How will people access the river with boats? The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division will create temporary fixes at public-access areas to make boating access possible, Altena noted. What kind of water clarity is expected? Altena: The clarity will almost certainly go from less than 1 foot deep to 3 or more feet of clarity on the lake. What about carp? Altena: There are carp in virtually every lake and river. The Little Rock Lake Association sponsors an annual carp catch to try to help reduce their population. About 3,000 pounds of them were caught and removed last year, an LRLA official said at the meeting.

What will happen?

Starting Aug. 1, if all goes as planned, the Sartell dam will begin opening gates to lower the water level 3 feet for an

approximate 11-mile stretch of river north of Sartell. The lowering process will take about 36 hours. That lowered level will persist for six weeks after which the dam will let the water rise again, another 36-hour process. The drawdown is a partnership among the MNDNR, Little Rock Lake Association, the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District and Eagle Creek Energy. The project cost is \$235,000. A state Water Legacy grant obtained by the BSWCD will cover the lion’s share. The LRLA has raised 70 percent of its goal of about \$38,000, and Eagle Creek Energy contributed \$30,000. Both during and after the drawdown, the lake and river will be meticulously monitored and studied for changes. About 250 Boy Scouts have agreed to help with clean-up of the exposed areas and with planting of beneficial vegetation such as bulrush, burr weed and cord grass.

Altena said there are no 100-percent guarantees of success but based on other drawdown projects, there are bound to be benefits to both the lake and the river. It’s possible another drawdown might be needed in the future, say in seven to 10 years, but the good news, Altena added, is programs aimed at reducing phosphorus and other nutrient levels at watershed areas have been successful. For example, there are about 2,500 pounds less of phosphorus flowing into Little Rock Lake in each of the recent years. Those kinds of water-protection measures, combined with the drawdown, should add up to long-term success, Altena and others believe. Little Rock Lake was formed as a backed-up water area when a dam was completed in 1907 at the paper mill in Sartell, basically the same dam that exists now and that will facilitate the drawdown.

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, 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.

Monday, April 9
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.
Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N. 320-253-2171.
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 9 meeting,

6:30-8 p.m. Sauk Rapids VFW 901 N. Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids. 320-492-9702 or email davch9stcloud@gmail.com.
Moms Demand Action, 7 p.m., St. Cloud Public Library, 1300 St. Germain St.
Tuesday, April 10
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., St. Stephen City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave. SE. 320-251-0964.
Holistic Moms Network, 7-8:30 p.m., Good Earth Co-

op, 2010 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-252-2489.
Thursday, April 12
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 Cindy Staiger presenting “Eight Great Ways to Age Well,” 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.
Sartell-Sauk Rapids Moms’ Club, 9-10:30 a.m., Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

New York Times Bestselling author William Kent Krueger, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Waite Park Public Library 253 Fifth Ave. N. 320-253-9359.
Friday, April 13
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.
Saturday, April 14
Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

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2018 Sabres Varsity Spring Sports

Baseball

4/10/18	5 p.m.	Willmar High Schol	Away
4/12/18	5 p.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Away
4/14/18	2 p.m.	Cambridge-Isanti	Home
4/17/18	5 p.m.	Rocori	Home
4/19/18	5 p.m.	Alexandria	Away
4/20/18	5 p.m.	Little Falls	Home
4/23/18	5 p.m.	Big Lake	Home
4/24/18	5 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Away
4/27/18	4:30 p.m.	Zimmerman	Away
4/30/18	4 p.m.	Alexandria	Home
5/1/18	4 p.m.	Brainerd	Home
5/4/18	5 p.m.	Monticello	Home
5/10/18	5 p.m.	Rocori	Away
5/11/18	7 p.m.	St. Cloud Apollo	Home
5/15/18	4 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Away
5/17/18	7 p.m.	Willmar	Home
5/22/18	7 p.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Home
5/24/18	7 p.m.	St. Cloud Apollo	Away

Softball

4/12/18	5 p.m.	Willmar	Home
4/17/18	5 p.m.	Rocori	Away
4/20/18	5 p.m.	Alexandria	Home
4/24/18	4 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Away
4/27/18	11 a.m.	Detroit Lakes	Away
4/28/18	11 a.m.	Monticello	Away
5/1/18	4 p.m.	Brainerd	Home
5/3/18	5 p.m.	Rocori	Home
5/4/18	6 p.m.	Little Falls	Away
5/10/18	5 p.m.	St. Cloud Apollo	Away
5/11/18	4 p.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Away
5/15/18	4 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Home
5/17/18	5 p.m.	Willmar	Away
5/22/18	5 p.m.	Little Falls	Away

Boys' Tennis

4/10/18	3:30 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
4/16/18	4:30 p.m.	Becker	Away
4/12/18	4:30 p.m.	Alexandria	Home
4/17/18	4:30 p.m.	Apollo/Sauk Rapids-Rice	Away
4/19/18	4:30 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Away
4/23/18	4:15 p.m.	Monticello	Home
4/24/18	4:30 p.m.	Willmar	Home
4/26/18	4:30 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Away
4/28/18	9 a.m.	Buffalo Invitational	Away
5/1/18	4:30 p.m.	Foley	Away
5/3/18	4:30 p.m.	Brainerd	Home
5/4/18	4:30 p.m.	Alexandria	Away
5/8/18	3 p.m.	St. John's Prep	Home
5/8/18	4:30 p.m.	Apollo/Sauk Rapids-Rice	Home
5/10/18	4:30 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Home
5/11/18	4:30 p.m.	Willmar	Away
5/15/18	4:30 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Home

Boys' Lacrosse

4/19/18	6:45 p.m.	St. Michael-Albertville	Away
4/24/18	6 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Home
4/26/18	6 p.m.	Rocori	Away
4/30/18	6 p.m.	Rogers	Home
5/3/18	6:30 p.m.	Holy Family	Away
5/4/18	6:30 p.m.	Chisago Lakes	Home
5/7/18	7 p.m.	Becker	Home
5/8/18	7 p.m.	Duluth Denfeld	Home
5/10/18	7 p.m.	Buffalo	Away
5/15/18	7 p.m.	Delano	Home
5/17/18	6:30 p.m.	Monticello	Away
5/18/18	7 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
5/22/18	7 p.m.	Hutchinson	Home



Girls' Lacrosse

4/19/18	5:30 p.m.	St. Michael-Albertville	Home
4/21/18	Noon	Grand Rapids	Home
4/24/18	5:30 p.m.	Chisago Lakes	Away
4/26/18	5:30 p.m.	Rocori	Home
4/30/18	Noon	Orono	Away
5/3/18	6 p.m.	Mound Westonka	Home
5/7/18	Noon	Becker	Away
5/8/18	6 p.m.	Brainerd	Home
5/10/18	6 p.m.	Buffalo	Home
5/15/18	Noon	Delano	Away
5/17/18	6 p.m.	Monticello	Home
5/22/18	Noon	Hutchinson	Away
5/23/18	5 p.m.	St. Cloud Area	Away

Boys' Golf

4/16/18	3:30 p.m.	Meet at Brainerd Legacy Golf Course	Away
4/17/18	3:30 p.m.	Meet at St. Cloud Wapicada Golf Course	Away
4/19/18	9:30 a.m.	Invitational at Alexandria Golf Club	Away
4/20/18	1 p.m.	Invitational at Willmar Eagle Creek Golf Course	Away
4/21/18	9 a.m.	Invitational at Litchfield Golf Course	Away
4/24/18	3:30 p.m.	Meet at Territory Golf Club	Away
4/26/18	4 p.m.	Meet at Fergus Falls Pebble Lake Golf Course	Away
4/30/18	3:30 p.m.	Meet at Willmar Eagle Creek Golf Course	Away
5/4/18	2 p.m.	Presection at Rich-Spring Golf Course	Away
5/7/18	4 p.m.	Meet at Sartell Blackberry Ridge Golf Course	Home
5/10/18	1:45 p.m.	Invitational at St. Cloud Country Club	Away
5/18/18	4 p.m.	Meet at Rich-Spring Golf Course	Away
5/21/18	4 p.m.	Meet at Alexandria Golf Course	Away
5/22/18	9 a.m.	Invitational at Brainerd Legacy Golf Course	Away

Track

4/7/18	10 a.m.	Conference at St. John's Unviersity	Away
4/10/18	7 p.m.	Scrimmage at St. John's Unviersity	Away
4/13/18	3:30 p.m.	Invitational at Sartell Middle School	Home
4/20/18	4 p.m.	Quad at Sartell Middle School	Home
4/26/18	4 p.m.	Invitational at Cambridge-Isanti	Away
4/27/18	Noon	Invitational at Hamline University	Away
5/1/18	4 p.m.	Invitational at Buffalo	Away
5/8/18	3 p.m.	True Team at Brainerd	Away
5/15/18	4:30 p.m.	Triangular at Alexandria	Away
5/18/18	4 p.m.	True Team at Stillwater	Away
5/22/18	3 p.m.	Meet at Rocori	Away
5/18/18	4 p.m.	True Team at Stillwater	Away
5/22/18	3 p.m.	Meet at Rocori	Away

Girls' Golf

4/9/18	3:30 p.m.	Meet at Sartell Blackerry Ridge Golf Course	Home
4/12/18	3:30 p.m.	Meet at Sartell Blackerry Ridge Golf Course	Home
4/12/18	4:15 p.m.	Tournament at Litchfield Golf Course	Away
4/17/18	3:30 p.m.	Meet at Territory Golf Club	Away
4/23/18	9:30 a.m.	Tournament at Willmar Eagle Creek Golf Course	Away
4/30/48	3:30 p.m.	Meet at Rich-Spring Golf Course	Away
5/1/18	4 p.m.	Meet at Brainerd Maddens Resort	Away
5/4/18	2 p.m.	Presection at Rich-Spring Golf Course	Away
5/7/18	4 p.m.	Meet at Alexandria Golf Club	Away
5/10/18	9 a.m.	Invitational at St. Cloud Country Club	Away
5/14/18	4 p.m.	Meet at Fergus Falls Pebble Lake Golf Course	Away
5/16/18	9 a.m.	Invitational at Brainerd Maddens Resort	Away
5/17/18	3 p.m.	Meet at Sartell Blackberry Ridge Golf Course	Home
5/22/18	4 p.m.	Meet at St. Cloud Wapicada Golf Course	Away

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