

Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader

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Town Crier

Sartell Market Monday opens for summer

Join us from 3-6 p.m. on our opening day Monday, May 7 at the Coborn's Market Place parking lot off Pinecone Road. You will find meats, eggs, breads, treats, canned goods and early season vegetables. We will be open rain or shine on Mondays until mid-October.

Lemonade, Laughter to be held May 8

The Sartell Senior Connection will host the 10th annual Lemonade and Laughter, featuring musician and storyteller Charlie Roth, at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 8 at the St. Francis Xavier Gathering Space, 219 Second St. N., Sartell.

GNTC to hold class on play auditioning

Thinking about giving theater a try? Great Northern Theatre Company will hold a class for ages 7 and up entitled "How to Audition for a Play" from 6:30-9 p.m. Monday, May 14 at Rocori District Education Facility, Cold Spring. This summer GNTC will perform *Annie the Musical*. Learn auditioning techniques from a pro who has years of experience on stage and in the director role. There will be many parts for children so this is an opportunity to learn to be comfortable auditioning and to let your skills shine. Class will include voice, stage presence, expression, singing, movement and more. Join a fun evening for children and adults who are young at heart. There is a nominal fee. To register, visit www.gntc1.com.

Contact Doyscher-Domres for historical-artifacts effort

A good number of people in Sartell are determined to find, to save and to preserve the city's historical artifacts before they are lost in the mists of time. A group of residents, headed by Sartell historian Bill Morgan, has been meeting unofficially in recent weeks. In the meantime, the Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader has received several calls from people with knowledge of artifacts or suggestions. Those people should contact Ann Doyscher-Domres at 320-253-4036 or email her at doyscher-domres@sartellk12.mn.us.

INSERTS:
St. Stephen newsletter
Good to Go
Country Manor Senior Housing

Exhibit speaks eloquently of immigrant experience

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Two Sartell residents, Zurya Anjum and Itoro Emmanuel, are being honored in a traveling exhibit dubbed Green Card Voices, which is now prominently on display in the lobby of the Sartell Community Center.

The exhibit will run through May 11, after which it will be shown in all of Sartell's public schools. Previously, the exhibit was shown at the Whitney Senior Center in St. Cloud, at Cold Spring and in Little Falls. It is made possible by grants from the Blandin Foundation, the Initiative Foundation, the Central Minnesota Community Foundation and coordinative work by UniteCloud.

Green Card Voices pays tribute to 18 people who are immigrants to central Minnesota – two who live in Sartell, two who live in St. Joseph, one who lives in Melrose and 13 who live in St. Cloud. The

exhibit is intended to let viewers learn about the astonishing range of talents and skills of immigrants, as well as the challenges they overcame to adjust to a new country, a new culture, a new society.

Green Card Voices features very tall panels with the face of each immigrant, along with a quote from each and a brief biographical essay. Each panel also contains a bar code from which a video of each immigrant can be downloaded and viewed on a smartphone app.

Anjum

Born in Quetta, Pakistan, Zurya Anjum is the youngest of three daughters. Because her father was a military man, the family moved quite often from city to city.

Her family placed a very high premium on education. Her mother, an educator, earned two master's degrees. Her sisters are also highly educated.

Exhibit • page 5



photos by Dennis Dalman

At left: Zurya Anjum is one of two Sartell residents featured in an exhibit titled Green Card Voices, which is being shown through May 11 in the lobby of the Sartell Community Center. At right: Itoro Emmanuel, who hails from Nigeria, is the other Sartellian. Tall banners feature the photos, words and videos of 18 immigrants to central Minnesota.

‘Color Walk-Run’ to culminate in swirl of colors

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A wild swirl of colors will dazzle participants and onlookers at the first "Color 1k/5k Walk-Run" at Celebration Lutheran Church in Sartell Sunday, May 20.

The walkers and runners will be splashed and drenched in colors.

All are welcome to sign up for the event, which is a fundraiser for a mission trip to Milwaukee, Wis., by students. Organizers are urging people to sign up to participate as soon as possible so

they can get a firm idea of how many will do the walk or run. To register, go to celebrationlutheranchurch.com or to the Facebook website of Celebration Lutheran Church.

The Color Walk-Run will begin at 12:15 p.m. and end about 1:30 p.m., followed by an outdoor concert with music by the band Radio Nation. If rain should start, the concert will be moved indoors.

Aaron Dowzak is Celebration's middle-school youth and family director. He explained what will happen at the unusual walk-run.

Along the walk-run trail will be five stations where participants will pause as others toss non-toxic colored powder over them. By the time they reach the finish line, all runners and walkers will be covered from head to toe with lively swirls. The colorful fun will encapsulate the rainbow logo for the event and its slogan: "Time to Sweat Rainbows."

"I'm super-excited to host the first-ever 1k-5k Color Run," Dowzak said. "We're praying for good weather and great success."

After people register for the event, they will be asked to pick

up their event packets at Celebration from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, May 19, the evening before the event. The packets will contain T-shirts with the Color Run logo and slogan, sunglasses, packets of colored powder and information about the event.

The Color Walk-Run is not a timed competitive race, Dowzak noted. The 1k is for younger children, although anyone can choose to do it, including people who are physically challenged or elderly people. Likewise, anyone can do the 5k challenge.

Color • page 4



contributed photo

Sartell residents Sarah and Andy Noble and their children recently received the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota Big Family of the Year award for mentoring their Little Brother Jesse Lloyd. The Nobles are shown with their mentee at the award ceremony. Pictured (front row, left to right) are William Noble, Jesse Lloyd, and Katelyn Noble and (back row) Sarah, Andy and Alexandra (Lexi) Noble.

Noble Family selected 2018 Family of the Year

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Are you interested in making a "big" difference in helping shape someone's life? If so, you might be interested in checking out the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota program like Sartell residents Sarah and Andy Noble did.

They and their children Alexandra, Katelyn and William, were recently selected as the 2018 Big Brothers Big Sisters Minnesota State Big Family of the Year. The family has been a mentor for two years.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota annually recognizes volunteers who go above and be-

yond their role as a mentor.

Other mentors who were selected to receive an award for the impact they've had on their "Little"/mentee and for their advocating of the mentoring program include the following: Kenny Hendrickson, Waite Park, as the 2018 Central Minnesota Big Brother of the Year, who has been a mentor for 10 years; Jessica Holmgren, St. Cloud, as the 2018 Central Minnesota Big Sister of the Year, who has been a mentor for seven years; Zach Faith, Foley High School, as the 2018 Central Minnesota High School Big Brother of the Year, who has been a mentor for three years; and Hanna Ritter, Rocori High School, as

Noble • back page

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SARTELL, MINNESOTA
2018 CANDIDATE FILING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the first day for filing affidavits of candidacy for the offices of Mayor or Councilmember for the City of Sartell, Minnesota, will be Tuesday, May 22, 2018.

The last day for filing will be Tuesday, June 5, 2018 until 5 p.m. (office hours are extended this day). Those filing will have until 5 p.m. Thursday, June 7 to withdraw their name from consideration.

All required documents are available at Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N., Sartell, Minn., 56377 or at the City’s website www.sartellmn.com. A primary election – if necessary – will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018. The general election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018.

City offices on the ballot are as follows:

MAYOR (1) – four-year term

COUNCILMEMBER (2) – four-year terms

Mary Degiovanni
City Administrator

Publish: May 4, 2018

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5/16/18 Jm

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.

April 18

8:03 a.m. Medical. Officers were dispatched to a report of an elderly woman who had fallen. Officers met with the patient. The woman said she had fallen the previous day and was now feeling pain and weakness. Officers gathered medical history and monitored her until Gold Cross Ambulance arrived.

April 19

8:57 a.m. Traffic stop. Seventh Street N. and First Avenue N. While patrolling in the 600 block of Riverside Avenue S., an officer observed a northbound vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. The officer determined the vehicle was traveling faster than the 30-mph limit. The officer stopped the vehicle. The driver admitted to speeding, stating she was late for work. The officer released the driver after issuing her a citation for speed.

April 20

9:46 a.m. Traffic crash. Riverside Avenue. An officer was dispatched to a two-vehicle collision involving a semi-tractor trailer. The officer observed a semi parked on southbound

Riverside Avenue. The second vehicle involved in the collision had pulled off of the roadway. The officer met with both drivers and ensured there were no injuries. During the conversation with both drivers, the officer learned both vehicles were on CR 78. The semi was in the middle of the turn lane and straight lane. The semi was allowed to do this because he was marked oversized load. The semi driver intended to make a right-hand turn onto Riverside Avenue. The driver of the second vehicle assumed the semi was going straight and pulled alongside it. As both vehicles attempted to make the turn the semi clipped the driver’s side rear of the passenger car causing minor damage. The semi was undamaged.

April 21

10:45 p.m. Argument. Hi-Vue Drive. Officers were dispatched for a possible domestic in progress. The caller said one man had a bloody lip and another man was breaking things on the property. Officers arrived and met with both men individually. Both stated they were just wrestling and had no intention of harming one another. Both men appeared intoxicated but able to care for themselves. Both men refused medical attention for minor injuries and the property owner didn’t wish to press charges for damages. Officers advised if they were called back, citations or arrests would occur.

April 22

12:58 a.m. Domestic. Tradewind Avenue. Officers

were dispatched for a report of a man who had threatened to shoot himself and the female complainant. Officers arrived and arrested the man. After an investigation, officers determined the man could be charged with second-degree assault, threats of violence and domestic assault involving a gun. The gun was recovered and placed into evidence. The man was taken to Stearns County Jail.

April 23

5:17 p.m. Warrant. 19th Avenue N. Officers were dispatched to serve an arrest warrant on a woman wanted for missing her court date. Officers arrived at the residence and knocked on the door. Officers were greeted by the woman. She was advised of her warrant and taken into custody. The woman was transported to Stearns County Jail.

April 24

12:56 a.m. Suspicious vehicle. Sauk River Regional Park. While on patrol, an officer observed a vehicle parked in the parking lot of a city park. The officer observed the vehicle had fogged windows and was occupied by a man. The officer made contact with the man who was sleeping. The man provided identification and admitting to not knowing the park was closed. When running the man’s identification, the officer learned the man had an active warrant for his arrest. The man was taken into custody. He was warned for being in the park after hours.



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Thursday, July 26..... \$79 pp

MN Twins vs Kansas City 1:10 p.m. game
Sunday, Aug. 5\$65 pp

Jasper Theater – Park Rapids w/lunch at West Forty
Wednesday, Aug. 8..... \$69 pp

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ALASKA Tours – July and August	Call on availability	
Niagara Falls (2 nights) & Mackinac Island	8 days	July 20–27
Great Parks of the West Tour	8 days	July 31–Aug. 7
Black Hills; Jackson, Wyo. – 2 nts; Yellowstone; Cody; Medora		
Summer Medora Musical (2 nts in Medora)	3 days	Aug. 9–11
Canadian Rockies, Glacier Park & Medora	8 days	Aug. 7–14
Banff-2 nights; Athabasca Glacier; Lake Louise; Glacier Park & Medora		
Fall Pacific Coast Tour – Fly return San Francisco	13 days	Sept. 1–13
Leavenworth; Seattle; Vancouver; Victoria-2 nts; P Coast-Redwoods; Wine Country		
Nova Scotia, PEI & Cape Breton Island & Fly return Boston	15 days	Sept. 18–Oct. 2
New England Fall Colors plus DC & NYC	16 days	Sept. 27–Oct. 12
Door County & Mackinac Island	6 days	Sept. 30–Oct. 5
Nashville & Pigeon Forge	8 days	Oct. 12–19
Carolinas & Georgia	11 days	Oct. 15–25
Fall Branson Tour	6 days and 6 shows	Oct. 17–22

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Editor
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Rachel Mohs

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Patric Lewandowski

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Carolyn Bertsch

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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.

People

Two Sartell-St. Stephen students have earned master's degrees from Minnesota State, Mankato.

They are Kathryn Haglin,

communication disorders, and Krista Heim, reading. The graduation ceremony will be Saturday, May 5.



contributed photo

RSVP volunteer Steve Flynn (left) presents the time capsule he built for the United Way of Central Minnesota to CEO Jon Ruis. Flynn built a time capsule for the United Way of Central Minnesota which is celebrating its 50th year. The time capsule is intended to be opened 50 years from now in 2068. Flynn is a retired industrial arts teacher.



contributed photo

Gearhead team members are the following: (front row, left to right) Hannah Applegate, Rose Kellner, (robot), Natalie Fischer and Lori Dale; (middle row) Corey, Bridget and Austin Applegate, Colton Hennek, Carter Calhoun, Taylor Bauer, Donovan Magney and David Dale; and (back row) Dave Fischer, Justin Fischer, Jaeger Johnson, Nicholas Asplund, Christopher Schweiger and Zachary Asplund.

Corrections

In a feature story about Sartell residents/artists Jim and Shirley Wasdyke (April 20 *Newsleader*), Shirley Wasdyke's maiden name was spelled incorrectly. The correct spelling is Sulzer.

The name of Sartell's city planner was incorrect in an April 27 story about the Bike to School event. Nate Keller is city planner.

An April 20 story about the proposed Sartell Public-Safety building contained an error concerning membership of the Public-Safety Facilities Committee. Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll is not a member of that committee, but council members Mike Chisum and Ryan Fitzthum are members, along with other city staff and department officials in the city.

PUBLIC NOTICES

SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL DISTRICT CALL FOR BIDS

The Sartell-St. Stephen School District Administration recommends the Board of Education authorize a Call for Bids for the following projects:

Pine Meadow Elementary School Parking Lot Reconstruction and Middle School West Access Road Reconstruction.

New Tennis Courts, and visual display boards (material only) at the New Sartell-St. Stephen High School.

Sartell-St. Stephen School District will receive sealed bids at the District Offices at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, 2018. Plans will be available on or after May 4, 2018. Contact the office of Winkelman Building Co. for document access at 320-253-2411.

Publish: May 4, 2018

CITY OF SARTELL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON VACATION OF INTERNAL DRAINAGE & UTILITY EASEMENTS Lot 1, Block 2, JK Real Estate

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN upon motion of the city council of Sartell, Minnesota a public hearing will be held before the City Council of Sartell, Minnesota, in the council chambers at the Sartell City Hall, at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on Monday, May 14, to hear all persons present upon the proposed vacation of certain internal drainage and utility easements located between two lots. The purpose of the vacation request is to allow structures to be constructed over the easement line.

Mary Degiovanni
City Administrator

Publish: May 4, 2018



PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SARTELL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON VACATION OF INTERNAL DRAINAGE & UTILITY EASEMENTS Lots 5 and 6, Block 1, Sandstone Village Three

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN upon motion of the city council of Sartell, Minnesota a public hearing will be held before the City Council of Sartell, Minnesota, in the council chambers at the Sartell City Hall, at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on Monday, May 14, to hear all persons present upon the proposed vacation of certain internal drainage and utility easements located between two lots. The purpose of the vacation is to consolidate the two lots into one.

Mary Degiovanni
City Administrator

Publish: May 4, 2018

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Notice is hereby given this 15th day of May, 2018, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 18.83, subd. 7, (1992), that all persons in Stearns County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they own, occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method but the methods may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with the individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work is hired done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. You may obtain a list of the plants that are designated noxious and of the members of the appeal committee from your County Agricultural Inspector or Local Weed Inspector. The Local Weed Inspectors are township supervisors, city mayors or their appointed assistants.

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This is a designer's drawing of the proposed Memorial Garden at First United Methodist Church.

First United plans Garden Sanctuary

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

First United Methodist Church announced plans for a Garden Sanctuary as part of the church's master plan.

The congregation's plans include a memorial garden, where cremains will be interred; a large patio with a wood-fired bread oven; outdoor worship and concert space; and a labyrinth.

The plan and fundraising efforts were announced Sunday, April 29, with a goal of raising \$250,000. Anonymous donors

have offered to match gifts up to \$80,000.

In a statement, the church said ministries envisioned by this project include activities such as outdoor worship, concerts, meals from the bread oven, receptions, weddings, and spiritual growth and renewal.

The Memorial Garden part of the project is designed for the interment of ashes providing an economical and ecologically responsible alternative to traditional burial practices, according to the church. Ashes will be interred either by burying

directly into the earth in the formal garden area, or a prairie scattering in the restored prairie grass section of the garden, according to Bill Meier, co-chair of the Memorial Garden Committee.

The capital campaign is set to conclude July 29.

First United Methodist moved from downtown St. Cloud to Sartell in 2013. The church says the garden plan is part of its ministry to the whole region and to practice good stewardship of its large property.

Color

from front page

At the end of the walk-run, participants will gather as a group to erupt into celebratory cheers.

Mission trip

Dowzak and his wife, Emily, will be two of seven adults who will accompany 29 middle-school students, grades six to eight, to the center of Milwaukee. There they will spend the better part of a week with elderly residents, helping them do a wide range of tasks, such as yard cleanup or painting. They will also spend time with the young children of Milwaukee's inner city. The mission trip is scheduled for June 24-29. Participants will drive there from Sartell in 12-passenger vans.

Celebration Lutheran Church is well known for its many mission trips by middle-school and high-school students. Dowzak, thus far, has been an adult member of more than a dozen missions by middle-school students. Among the cities they'd helped in are Cortez, Colorado; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Savannah, Georgia; Louisville, Kentucky; Green Bay, Wisconsin; and Rapid City, South Dakota.



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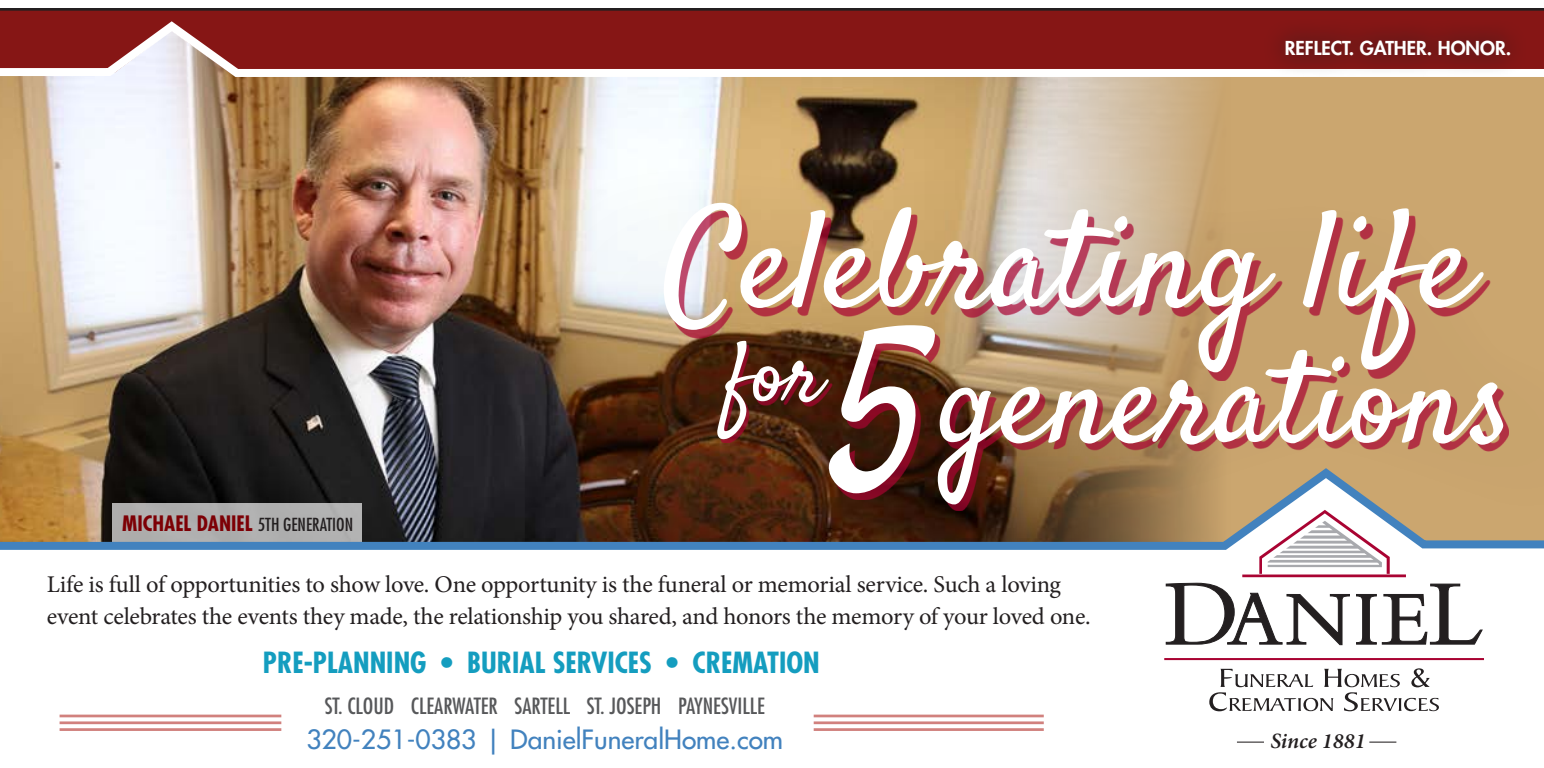
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Opinion

Our View Time to get serious about Northstar commuter rail

Ever since the first Northstar commuter rail train rolled out of downtown Minneapolis in 2009, central Minnesota mass transit advocates have argued the route should extend to St. Cloud instead of stopping at Big Lake.

Opponents counter the costs and ridership estimates don't justify extending the service. Commuters between St. Cloud and Minneapolis still contend with the increasing traffic on U.S. Hwy. 10 and Interstate Hwy. 94 and paying for gas and parking.

This year, Rep. Jim Knoblach (R-St. Cloud) reintroduced a bill that would extend Northstar to St. Cloud. Knoblach contends the extension could be done with no state funding. Knoblach says the trains could use St. Cloud's Amtrak station and the rails and train equipment are already in place.

On the other side of the Capitol, Gov. Dayton's budget includes \$850,000 to study the issue.

Knoblach's suggestion deserves serious debate in the Legislature and the legislators should approve the money Dayton wants for a study.

Opponents say there's no way the extension can happen without significant state funding. The cost is closer to \$40 million, they argue.

According to the *Minneapolis StarTribune*, MnDOT Commissioner Charlie Zelle said "The idea it could be done for free is ludicrous."

\$10 million would be needed to upgrade the Amtrak station so it complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Knoblach counters Stearns County and the city of St. Cloud could help fund the station improvements. Another \$12.5 million would be needed for additional equipment, a study completed for last year's legislative session found.

According to Metro Transit, there were about 794,000 rides on the Northstar last year, or about 2,800 each weekday, a 12-percent increase over 2016.

Would there be more riders if the train traveled to St. Cloud instead of stopping in Big Lake, 27 miles from St. Cloud?

One way to find out is to do the study.

Today's trip between St. Cloud and Target Field Station in downtown Minneapolis involves a bus ride or driving from St. Cloud to the Big Lake station to catch the train. That's not a very seamless or convenient option.

Connecting St. Cloud with the Twin Cities would benefit both communities. Riders would find it easier to get to work or college. In today's tight job market, central Minnesota employers might find it easier to recruit workers from a wider area. Families traveling to the Twin Cities for sports, cultural or entertainment events might find it more fun and less stressful than driving.

The Republican controlled Legislature, whose members don't like mass transit, are unlikely to put big money behind a Northstar extension. But just saying "No" is not a transportation strategy.

A decade is long enough to debate the merits of finally completing the Northstar line. It's time for a serious debate and in-depth study for a service that could benefit businesses and riders in central Minnesota as well as the Twin Cities.

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.

It turns out, cats are people too

Usually, when one starts a new job, it takes a few weeks to bond with new co-workers.

As the days pass, connections are made because of the work's shared mission and purpose. Learning about the hobbies and interests of new colleagues helps as does getting used to their personalities, quirks and idiosyncrasies.

Getting acquainted is even easier in a small office and that is the case with me. There are four people in the *Newsleader* office and we work together as a somewhat informal team.

I've struggled, however, to connect with a four-legged member of our team.

The Cat.

As a child, we didn't have pets, except a German shepherd that outgrew our smallish city lot and ended up finding a home on a farm with more room to roam.

As an adult, our two daughters never expressed much interest in sharing their space with a cat or dog. That was a good thing, because my spouse is extremely allergic to animal fur. After a few minutes in a room with a dog or cat, her eyes swell and turn red and she has trouble breathing.

No cats or dogs for us.

Many of my friends and colleagues are pet lovers. They cherish their dogs as hunting partners and their cats as companions.

Researchers have found pets promote human well-being. Advocates for pets in the workplace contend they boost morale and lower anxiety.

The clear-thinking folks in corporate human resources departments quickly kill the notion for an office pet. Who's going to pay for the food? What if someone gets bitten? And how about those vet bills?

There's none of that corporate nonsense in our office. The Cat lives here

Mike
Knaak
Editor



full time.

I'm usually first to arrive in the morning and as I approach the door, I can hear The Cat. When I open the door, she scoots outside for a moment and then returns.

When I sit down and start up my laptop, The Cat marches back and forth across my desk, including the keyboard, demanding attention. Finding none, she takes off and perches on the ledge looking out the front window for a new friend to arrive.

The Cat makes cat noises as she waits for Rachel Mohs. When Rachel enters, The Cat races to greet her. The Cat likes Rachel better than me because she likes The Cat better. Rachel will pick up The Cat, pet her and talk to her.

We don't have many cat toys in the office. The Cat improvises. We do have a credit card machine. The



photo by Mike Knaak

The office cat with its newest toy.

Air shows bring back memories

Connor
Kockler
Guest Writer



cake for me was the Blue Angels.

The Blue Angels are the U.S. Navy's elite flight demonstration squadron. I remember the rush that ran through me on seeing their blue and yellow jets for the first time in the sky above me. I had seen them in pictures and videos before, but it nowhere near captures the amazement you feel in real life when watching their shows. I watched breathlessly as their planes zigzagged high above, and felt the sound barrier break in their wake. They then finished off with their signature diamond formation, with four planes flying only inches apart.

Afterward, I was quite impressed, and looked for all sorts of media about them. Many an elementary and middle school book checkout from the library was for a book about planes or the Blue Angels specifically. I also kept an eye out for further air shows, and was excited to see the Blue Angels were actually coming to St. Cloud that next summer. I marked the date, and waited in anticipation.

Cat has found if she pushes the right buttons, the card reader makes noise. When The Cat pushes one special button, the reader shoots out a strip of paper for her to play with.

I spoiled The Cat's fun by placing a plastic tray over the reader and weighing it down with a small block of granite.

We have other potential toys. An empty paper box presents a challenge for The Cat. With no thumbs on her paws, removing the top takes some work. But she manages and soon she is settled inside the box.

I've told my photojournalism students to be careful attributing human emotions to animals when writing photo captions, because, I asserted, animals don't have emotions.

I've teasingly argued the same point with my friend, former colleague and animal lover Kate Kompas. Kate, by the way, shares her home with three cats.

I'm starting to think Kate may be right. The Cat can be frisky, smug, annoyed, inquisitive and persistent. Some of the same qualities as humans.

Oh, and The Cat has a name. Kit Kat.

The day came, and once again I was caught up in the fervor of planes and the Blue Angels. There were plenty of new things to see as well, including a F-22 Raptor stealth fighter that performed tricks with its advanced maneuvering capabilities. All in all, it was another great day, and I got a baseball hat, though a little small for me now, that I wore everywhere emblazoned with the Blue Angels' logo.

Following that burst of activity, I have yet to see another air show again. There was supposed to be one in St. Cloud in 2013 which was cancelled, and others throughout the state I haven't been able to attend, though I've always kept my interest and hope that an opportunity will come up again.

In the end though, I think my air show experiences really served to cement two main ideas in my head, that of an admiration for our nation's service members and the amazing technology that are planes and all things aviation. We are truly lucky to live in a time with so many incredible pilots and innovations all around us.

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

Council agrees to share cost of fields’ maintenance

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

For the third consecutive year, the Sartell City Council approved an athletic-fields maintenance contract among the city, Pinecone Central Park Association, the Sartell-St. Stephen school district and ProFields LLC.

The council approved the contract unanimously at its April 23 meeting.

Jason Mathiasen, a member of the PCPA Board of Directors, updated the council on work being done on fields in Sartell.

The city’s share of the contract cost is \$19,800, same as last year; the school district’s share is \$21,000; and the PCPA’s

total is \$41,700. In addition, leasing fees from the private golf course on Sartell property will be given twice a year, as the fees become available, to the PCPA for recreational-field repairs. The council also approved that transfer of leasing fees at its April 23 meeting.

Council member David Peterson, though he is in favor of the contract agreements, said he thinks the city’s “recreation” funds should be extended in the future for use in more than just recreational fields, such as for a skating park or the dog park.

Mathiasen said the PCPA Board has discussed exactly that – extending its work for

other recreational uses, including possibly a water feature at the dog park, which is in Pinecone Central Park.

The maintenance contract approved by the council will make possible maintenance of recreational fields in the city, including those of the school district. Although city staff will mow the fields, a licensed expert (ProFields) will apply chemicals and nutrients to the turf as well as other highly technical forms of maintenance.

Other field work will include fencing repairs, erosion control, adding some drain-tiling and renovating some soccer fields.

The maintenance partnership among the four entities

is a way to dovetail necessary upkeep and repairs to the fields – avoiding duplications and keeping all the entities apprised of the overall plans.

Council member Ryan Fitzthum thanked Mathiasen and Mike Spanier, along with the PCPA members, for their “fantastic work for the community.”

Mathiasen said the PCPA has succeeded in raising \$1.2 million for field improvements that will begin this week. The first, he noted, is construction of a new intermediate baseball field at Pinecone Central Park; the second is to prepare the ground for a second softball field in Pinecone; and the third, to begin in late July, is a total recon-

struction of Champion Field.

Council member Mike Chisum asked Mathiasen why Pinecone Central Park is annually plagued with drainage problems. Mathiasen said that has been a problem since the fields were constructed due to the nature of the soil at Pinecone. The PCPA examined all solutions, he said. One option was to remove most of the topsoil, but that would cost \$100,000 just for two sports fields. The other option was to install drainage-tile systems. At first, they were installed to see if they would work. The drainage-tile method has led to significant improvements, Mathiasen noted.

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

St. Cloud Veterans Job Fair, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Cloud VA Health Care System Auditorium, 4801 Veterans Drive. 320-255-6353.

Sunday, May 6
Walk MS: St. Cloud, a benefit for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, 9:45 a.m., Apollo High School, 1000 44th Ave. N., St. Cloud, 855-372-1331 or walkMS.

org.

Jason Bishop, 1 and 3:30 p.m., at the Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 St. Germain St., St Cloud. 320-259-5463.

Monday, May 7
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

Lunch and cards, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-2 p.m., Trobec’s Bar & Grill, 1 Central Ave. S., St. Stephen.

Taste of St. Cloud fundraiser for the Franciscan Community Volunteers, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Kelly Inn, 100 Fourth Ave., S., St Cloud. Pat Flicker at 320-229-0307 or pflicker@fslf.org.

Sartell Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., upstairs of Blue Line Sports Bar and Grill, 1101 Second St. S., Sartell. 320-267-2591.

Tuesday, May 8
Sartell Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., Waters Church, 1227

Pinecone Road. 320-258.6061. info@sartellchamber.com.

Lemonade and Laughter featuring musician and storyteller Charlie Roth, 2 p.m., St. Francis Xavier Gathering Space, 219 Second St. N., Sartell.

Estate Planning 101 – Preparing for the Future, presented by Jackie Schuh of Englemeier and Umanah Law Firm, 6:30 p.m., St. Cloud Federal Credit Union, 3030 First St. S., St. Cloud.

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

“Admiral Bill Halsey: A Naval Life” by military historian and strategist Thomas A. Hughes Ph.D., sponsored by the St. Cloud Reading Room Society, 7 p.m., Cathedral High School Library, 312 Seventh Ave. N., St Cloud.

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

Wednesday, May 9
Forum of Executive Women, featuring Coborn’s Vice President of Fresh Merchandising Emily Coborn, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., The Tuscan Center Midtown Square, 3333 Division St., No. 116, St. Cloud. 320-260-4307.

Bike to School Day Celebration, 2:30-5 p.m., includes obstacle course, free food, lawn games and bike giveaway, Lion’s Park, 1030 First St. N., Sartell.

Baby Shower, hosted by the St. Cloud VA Health Care System to honor and support veterans welcoming new children into their families in 2018, 5-8 p.m., St. Cloud VA Health Care System, 4801 Veterans Drive.

Thursday, May 10
Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.

Friday, May 11
Benton County Museum, 10

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

Youth Lock Out, 6:30 p.m. tonight to 6 a.m. Saturday, May 12, Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N., Sartell, celebrationlutheranchurch.com.

Saturday, May 12
Make a Cake for Mom, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Cold Spring Bakery Connection, 103 Second St. S., Waite Park. 320-253-1423. And Cold Spring Bakery, 308 Main St., Cold Spring. 320-685-8681.

Mom and Daughter Vendor/Craft Sale, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Eagles Club 731 41st Ave. N., St. Cloud.

Visit and pet lambs, noon-4 p.m., Wooly Meadow Lamb Farm, 2551 110th Ave., Bowlus. 320-587-5770.

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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Noble

from front page

the 2018 Central Minnesota High School Big Sister of the Year, who has been a mentor for two years.

Local mentor candidates represent Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota in the statewide competition. The state selects one outstanding mentor in each category to represent Minnesota in a national competition. In addition to receiving the local title, three mentors from the St. Cloud agency were honored with the statewide title. These included Andy and Sarah Noble and their children; Hendrickson, who was selected as the 2018 Minnesota State Big Brother of the Year; and Faith, who was selected as 2018 Minnesota State High School Big Brother of the Year.

Award recipients were recently recognized during the Big Celebration, an annual event that honors the agency's mentors.

The Nobles who have lived in Sartell for almost seven years, have been mentors for more than two years to Jesse Lloyd, 10, and have done a wide variety of activities with him including playing outside, playing board-game nights, rock climbing, going to Valleyfair and going to a Vikings football game.

They have also gone to Summerland, Airmaxx, a holiday party and the Big Celebration.

The Nobles began their journey as a Big Family in October 2015.

Both Sarah and Andy had interest in becoming Bigs but Sarah said they struggled to justify time away from their own young children. Mentoring as a family allowed them to build a relationship with their Little, Lloyd, give back to the area and lead by example for their children showing the difference you can make in someone's life.

She said they enjoy participating in anything active with Lloyd. They love sports and games of all sorts. A favorite has been pickleball, which they have been able to do at the Sartell Community Center many times.

Sarah said Lloyd has a great backhand swing.

She said becoming a Big is a decision people won't regret.

"We've invited our Little into our family and through this experience," Sarah said, "we have broadened our own horizons and exposed ourselves and our children to different types of families and relationships leading to increased awareness and acceptance of others around us. Big Brothers Big Sisters works to match you with a Big/Little with common interests so there is a natural connection. We hope our Little has experienced the same growth and friendship that we have in knowing him."

Lloyd said his favorite thing about his Big family is having someone to talk with after school every Wednesday, if not every other day. His favorite thing to do with the Nobles is to "just hang out, have fun and just go do stuff with them."

Lloyd said the Nobles are de-

serving of the Big Family of the Year award because they are doing stuff that's helping others.

"The Nobles are very deserving of both of these awards," said Mary Bechtold, a match support coordinator for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. "They have given Jesse a second family to spend time and enjoy activities with as well as offered support and encouragement to him during important times in his life."

Bechtold, who lives in St. Joseph, said the Nobles are great mentors for the program and also a huge asset to the area.

Andy Noble connected his work place with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program to sponsor several families with youth in the program during the holiday season. Both Sarah and Andy also collected products from their coworkers for the Big Brothers Big Sisters' hygiene product drive in January. These products were then donated to Pathways 4 Youth, a resource center for homeless youth, and are now available to people who stop at the center.

As a match, they have also volunteered at the Big Brothers Big Sisters' Golf Fore Kids' Sake event the past two summers.

Bechtold said Jesse now refers to the Nobles as his "Big Dad," "Big Mom," "Big Sisters" and "Big Little Brother."

"We encourage anyone interested in becoming a Big to reach out to the Big Brothers Big Sisters office to learn more," Sarah said. "We were so impressed by the professionalism and dedication they

have to making successful matches. We are proof one family can make a difference no matter how "Big" or "Little."

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cen-

tral Minnesota currently has 100 children waiting for mentors. For more information, call 320-253-1616 or visit bigbscentralmn.org.

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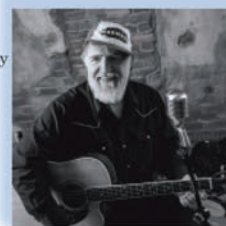
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36⁹⁸
Jack Daniel's, Jack Honey & Jack Fire
1.75 Liter

23⁹⁸
Beefeater Gin
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25⁹⁸
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wine of the month

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