

# Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader

Friday, June 15, 2018  
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## Town Crier

### 'Beauty and Beast' to show June 15

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" live-action movie is the June 15 selection for Movies Under the Stars, hosted by St. Cloud Park & Recreation and sponsored by Capital One. The free event begins at dusk at Field C-3 in Whitney Memorial Park. Concessions are available. Rain site is Whitney Rec Center. Star Wars: the Last Jedi shows July 20. The Aug. 10 movie is to be determined by a community vote. Check out Facebook for community vote @cityofstcloudmnparkandrec. For more information, visit ci.stcloud.mn.us or call 320-255-7277.

### Volunteer to take care of flower beds

St. Scholastica Convent is looking for several volunteers to help with weeding and watering the flower beds around the dining room. This is an opportunity to spend time outdoors with flowers and to beautify the convent. Contact Marina Schlangen, Saint Scholastica volunteer coordinator, at 320-251-2225 or mschlangen@csbsju.edu.

### Help your neighbors

Catholic Charities' Emergency Services program has several weekly opportunities for volunteers. Check-out person 4-6 p.m. Monday and 9 a.m. to noon Friday; clothing support person 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday and 12:45-4 p.m. Thursday; donation door assistant 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 12:30-4:15 p.m. Thursday; and food shelf guide 3:45-7 p.m. Wednesday. These opportunities are at 157 Roosevelt Road, Suite 100, St. Cloud, and is on a bus line. Go to <http://ccstcloud.org/services/emergency/how-you-can-help/> to download a Volunteer Registration form. Contact Michelle at 320-229-4586.

### Provide support to families

Lutheran Social Service/St. Cloud Area Crisis Nursery is in need of volunteers to staff the crisis line from home (cell phone) between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. Volunteers will receive personal training on working the crisis line and working with families in crisis. Volunteer schedule is flexible. Crisis Nursery is 24/7 care for children and support for families and a nonprofit organization that has served Stearns and Benton counties for more than 19 years. Contact Conni Orth, LSS Crisis Nursery, at 320-654-1090 or [conni.orth@lssmn.org](mailto:conni.orth@lssmn.org).

INSERTS:  
Drakes  
Nahan Printing

## SummerFest was fun without sun

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

To see a gallery of photos from Summerfest, go to [www.thenewsleaders.com](http://www.thenewsleaders.com)

Sartell SummerFest 2018 lacked sunshine, but it brimmed with fun for thousands of people, including many-out-of-townners who gathered to enjoy the 28th annual event.

It began with the Liberty Parade and its nearly 80 units, including eight marching bands that wowed the long lines of spectators. The parade also featured a surprise guest – Joyce (Yozamp) McCann, now in her 80s, who was the Sartell Winter Haven Queen of 1951.

During the entire parade, the overcast sky dripped down rain, but it was a slow and sparse dripping – more moist

than soggy-wet – and no one seemed to mind. In fact, some said they were happy about the weather, remarking how nice it was to watch the parade without sweating and squinting under a hot sun.

One of the spectators was a young boy, about 3 years old, named Oliver and his parents who sat in folding chairs on Seventh Street N. next to Riverside Plaza. Across the street was a toddler who kept crying loudly, standing next to his older brother who was holding a bag of popcorn.

“That little boy is certainly not happy about something,” said Oliver’s mother.

“I know why he’s crying,” Oliver said. “It’s because he doesn’t have any teeth to eat that popcorn.”

Fest • page 4

## History buffs exhibit historical ‘orphans’

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

Three history buffs lovingly arranged and re-arranged more than 100 “orphans” in the lobby of city hall on the morning of Sartell SummerFest June 9.

The “orphans” are historical artifacts that have no home. For years, they’ve been fostered out to basements, attics and garages in the city. That’s why the three history buffs and many others want a museum to preserve those objects for posterity, so newcomers to town and future generations can get a feel for the origins and development

of Sartell, a unique river city.

The history buffs at city hall were Ron and Sandy Hurd, husband-and-wife; and Kaye Wenker. They set up the one-day exhibit in the lobby so people taking SummerFest historical trolley rides could peruse some of the prized relics of the past.

Among the artifacts were a pair of roller skates from the 1950s; a Winter Haven tunic and skis, also from the 1950s when Sartell hosted an annual Winter Haven celebration; carvings and a diorama created by Bill Pearson, an expert carver; a series of almost 50 Sartell High School yearbooks, includ-

## Wind storm blows in helping hands



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Friends and neighbors come together June 12 at the home of Judy Noble on Brookwood Lane in Sartell to help clean up storm debris. They are (left to right) Judy Noble, Lilly Lavigne and Richard Emslander.

ing a 1970 yearbook featuring the first graduating class of the newly built first Sartell High School; pin-on booster buttons of the Sartell Sabres, including one that says “Brand the Bulldogs. Sabres Homecoming Oct. 9, 1970;” a wooden cabinet hand-made by Frank Sartell; a shaving mirror used by workers at the old paper mill; and many more intriguing items.

The Hurds, Wenker and many members of the Sartell Senior Connection are enlisting citywide support for a museum, perhaps in a repurposed police-station building once the new fire-police department

building is constructed.

At one point, there were hopes for a place in the Sartell Community Center for a history museum or at least a room or two in which to display artifacts, but those hopes came to nothing in the planning stages of the center.

Sartell museum advocates, all of them diehard history buffs, have been meeting on a regular basis and hope to meet with city officials about plans for a possible museum.

For photos for this story and more digital-only content, check out [www.thenewsleaders.com](http://www.thenewsleaders.com)

## Muskies celebrate 40th season; start Hall of Fame



contributed photo

The 1979 Muskies: (front row from left) Mark Guggenberger, Steve Paul, Rip Rassier, Graham “Punky” Hendrickson, bat boys Todd Ohotto and Chuck Nelson, Pete Hess, Roger Ohotto, Greg Frank and Tom Gaughan, (back row) team host Sid O’Hara, John Vinge, Dave Wickstrom, Steve Johnson, John Dolan, Mike Roth, Lynn McClintok, drafted players: Jeff Neutzling from Avon, John Taufen from St. Joseph and John Omann from St. Stephen, and Bill Nelson.

by Mike Knaak  
[editor@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:editor@thenewsleaders.com)

The Sartell Muskies amateur baseball team will celebrate its 40th season before the home game on Wednesday, June 20. The Muskies will host the Foley Lumberjacks at Champion Field starting at 7 p.m.

The Muskies were founded in 1979 and immediately qualified for the state amateur tournament in their first and second seasons. In their third season, the Muskies moved to Muskie Field, now known as Champion Field. That field

was built through organizing, fundraising and labor of the Muskie families, with assistance from the city of Sartell and its citizens.

To honor those most responsible for founding the team and building a ballpark, these founders will be the inaugural inductees into the Sartell Muskies Hall of Fame. Ceremonies will occur just before the first pitch at 7 p.m.

Founders are Larry (Rip) and Mille Rassier, Urban and Dorothy Frank, Larry and Aggie Traut, Lu and Dave Guggenberger Sr., and Jim and Marge Ohotto.



PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SARTELL  
NOTICE OF HEARING ON ASSESSMENTS  
FOR CR 29 STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

TIME AND PLACE:

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Sartell, Minnesota, will meet in the City Hall in the City of Sartell, Minnesota, on the 9th day of July, 2018, at 6 p.m. to consider objections to the proposed assessments for CR 29 Street & Utility Improvements heretofore ordered by the City Council.

GENERAL NATURE OF IMPROVEMENTS:

Proposed improvements include construction of improvements to Sanitary Sewer and Water Mains under County Road 29, crossing the Mississippi River, as well as improvements to Third Avenue East and Second Street NE, by reconstruction of the street, drainage system, sanitary sewer, water, and sewer services.

ASSESSMENT ROLL OPEN TO INSPECTION:

The proposed assessment roll is on file with the City Clerk and open to public inspection.

AREA PROPOSED TO BE ASSESSED:

The area proposed to be assessed consists of every lot, piece or parcel of land benefitted by said improvement, which has been ordered made and is as follows: property along CR 29 Street & Utility Improvement in the City of Sartell,

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT:

The total amount proposed to be assessed is \$222,588.82.

WRITTEN OR ORAL OBJECTIONS:

Written or oral objections will be considered at the hearing.

RIGHT OF APPEAL:

An owner of property to be assessed may appeal the assessment to the district court pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal upon the Mayor or Clerk of the City within 30 days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the district court within ten days after service upon the Mayor or Clerk.

LIMITATION ON APPEAL:

No appeal may be taken as to the amount of any assessment adopted by the City Council unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner is filed with the Clerk prior to the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing. All objections to the assessments not received at the assessment hearing in the manner prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, Section 429.061 are waived, unless the failure to object to the assessment hearing is due to a reasonable cause.

DEFERMENT OF ASSESSMENTS:

Under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Sections 435.193 to 435.195, the City may, at its discretion, defer the payment of assessments for any homestead property owned by a person 65 years of age or older for whom it would be a hardship to make the payments. The procedure for applying for such a deferment has been set forth by Resolution in the City’s Assessment Policy and is available upon request at the office of the City Clerk.

MAILED NOTICE:

The notice of this hearing mailed to property owners contains additional information.

DATED: June 11, 2018.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

/s/ Mary Degiovanni  
City Administrator

Publish: June 15, 2018

*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 tricounty-crimestoppers.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.*

May 16

1:32 a.m. Theft. 21 CR 120. Officers were dispatched to Walmart for a report of a shoplifter. Officers contacted a Walmart asset protection employee by phone. The employee said the suspect was possibly attempting to steal a bike. Officers waited outside the grocery exit/entrance doors and observed the man riding the bike out the doors. Officers took the man into custody without incident. Through further investigation, officers found enough evidence to charge the man with misdemeanor theft. He was transported to Stearns County Jail.

May 17

2:23 p.m. Medical. 310 Second Street S. A woman walked into the police department and said she was having an asthma attack. The woman told an officer she had dropped her inhaler in her car and couldn’t find it. Gold Cross Ambulance was called; the ambulance arrived as the officer found the inhaler. After using the inhaler, the woman felt well enough to drive herself to St. Cloud Hospital.

May 18

6:08 p.m. DWI. 200 block Riverside Avenue S. Officers were dispatched for a report of a suspicious vehicle that was all over the road. Officers located the vehicle described in the complaint in the parking lot of Riverside Plaza. The vehicle was observed to be running and occupied by a man. The man showed obvious signs of impairment. The man admitted to drinking and driving and was unable to

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN  
NOTICE: CHANGE  
IN MEETING DATE

The City of St. Stephen City Council will hold its business meeting on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 due to the July 4th holiday. Motion made by Danita Traut, seconded by Gene Skaj and carried. The meeting will begin at its regular time, 6:30 p.m.  
/s/ Cris M Drais  
City of St. Stephen City Clerk

Dated: June 12, 2018

Publish:  
June 15 and June 29, 2018

Blotter

pass field sobriety testing. The man was arrested. At the police station, the man underwent a formal breath test indicating he was three times the legal limit. The man was taken to Stearns County Jail and booked on a charge of third-degree DWI.

May 19

11:29 p.m. Juvenile party. Officers were dispatched for a report of a loud party in Sartell. Upon arrival, officers found several younger-looking people outside a residence with open containers of alcohol. Further investigation disclosed a large underage drinking party with numerous containers of alcohol and drug paraphernalia in plain view. Homeowner was contacted and gave consent to clear the house of all people beside their teenage son who had hosted the party. Everyone in the residence was required to give a breath sample and identify themselves before leaving. All who were under the age of 21 and had a positive breath test for alcohol were cited for minor consumption.

May 20

8:06 p.m. Behavioral health. City of Sartell. An officer was dispatched for a report of a 10-year-old boy with known behavioral health issues who was currently having an episode. At the time of the call, the mother of the child stated things had calmed down but she was still concerned about her son’s safety. The officer arrived and contacted the mother. She expressed concerns that her son’s behavior was escalating and he had pulled out knives in an anger episode. She stated the child didn’t threaten anyone with the knives. The officer then spoke with the child in his bedroom. The child was calm and willing to talk with the officer. The child stated he had felt bad about what had happened and stated it had occurred because his mother had asked him to do things he didn’t want to do. The officer explained he needed to listen to his mother. The officer explained that grabbing knives is

never OK and the boy agreed. The officer and the child created a game plan for what to do when he gets angry. The officer left the boy his business card so he could call the officer whenever he needed to talk.

May 21

9:55 p.m. Medical. 21 CR 120. Officers were dispatched to Walmart for a report of a woman who was actively seizing. Two officers were in the immediate area and were on scene right away. Upon entering the store, the patient was seen to be lying on the ground being cradled by a bystander. Upon arrival, officers observed the woman had a medic alert band on her left wrist along with an emergency information booklet in her purse. After a few minutes the woman was alert enough to communicate. The woman explained she had an extensive history of seizures. Gold Cross Ambulance arrived on scene and took over patient care. The woman didn’t wish to go to the hospital. An officer transported her to a residence in Sauk Rapids for safety. The Good Samaritan in this call was issued a Sartell police badge pin for assistance in this medical.

May 22

9:57 a.m. Vehicle crash. Scout Drive and Pinecone Road S. Officers were dispatched for a report of a motor-vehicle crash at the intersection of Pinecone Road S. and 23rd Street S. Upon arrival, the vehicles involved had pulled into the Coborn’s parking lot. One officer took photos of the damage to vehicles while a second officer gathered information about the crash. Driver of vehicle one explained he was northbound on Pinecone Road and was in the right lane. Driver of vehicle two stated she was on Troop Drive and made the left turn to head north on Pinecone Road and was in the left lane. Driver two stated she attempted to make a lane change into the right lane and collided with vehicle one. Minor damage was observed and no injuries were reported.

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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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## People

Twenty-two Sartell-St. Stephen students were recently named to the spring dean’s list at North Dakota State University, Fargo. To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a 3.5 or higher grade-point average.

They are the following: **Amanda Burge**, nursing; **Jonathan Carlson**, art; **Dawson Coleman**, computer science; **Jessica Deters**, accounting; **Ryan Dumont**, mechanical engineering; **Alyssa Frank**, nursing; **Callie Grosz**, pharmaceutical sciences; **Michael Heim**, statistics; **Alexis Kaas**, English; **Samantha Killmer**, industrial engineering and management; **Briana Kowalke**, chemistry; **Taylor Mareck**, nursing; **Michael Nistler**, emergency management; **Bailey Offerdahl**, pharmaceutical sciences; **Tony Paul**, landscape architecture; **Anna Schmitz**, apparel, retail merchandising and design; **Alec Staiger**, mechanical engineering; **Kirk Staiger**, electrical engineering; **Emma Stambaugh**, marketing; **Sydney Thieschafer**, civil engineering; **Jacob Wenzel**, industrial engineering and management; and **Benjamin Yelle**, mechanical engineering. Nistler is St. Stephen resident; the others hail from Sartell.

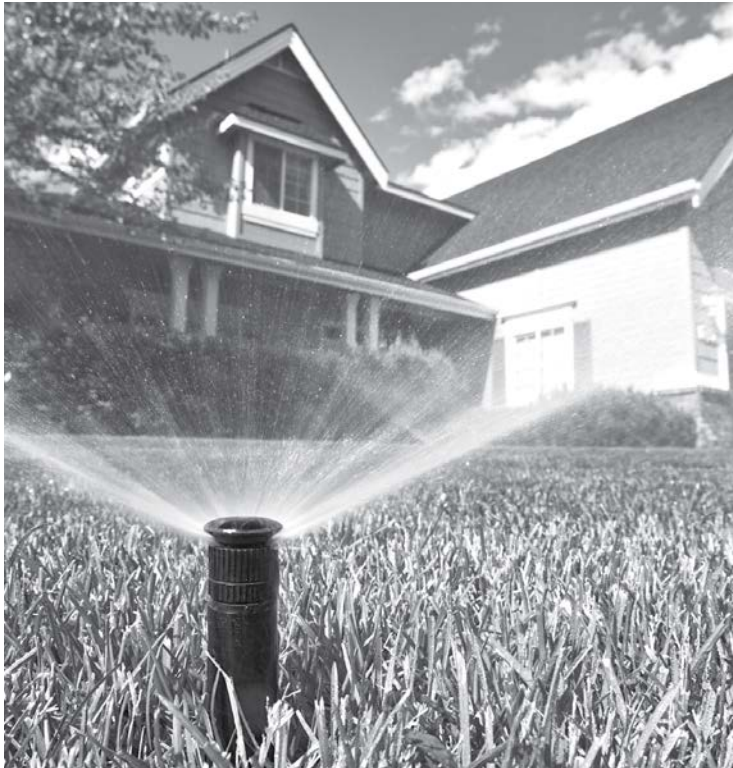
**Autumn Dingman** of Sartell won third place in the Class 8A-Conference 2 – Season Average Female event May 26 in the Minnesota State High School Clay Target League competition.

**William Bachman** of Sartell was named to the spring dean’s list at Montana State University, Bozeman. To qualify, students must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher.

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF SARTELL

NOTICE OF HEARING ON IMPROVEMENT TO CELEBRATION NEIGHBORHOOD

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Sartell will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, July 9, 2018, in the Council Chambers of the City Hall to consider the improvement to the Celebration Neighborhood and 20th Avenue area drainage and alleys pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 429.011 to 429.111.

The area proposed to be assessed for such improvement is the parcels abutting and benefiting from

Mary Degiovanni  
City Administrator

Publish: June 15 & 29, 2018.

CITY OF SARTELL

PUBLIC HEARING

RENTAL DWELLINGS, FEE SCHEDULE AND KEY BOX INSTALLATION ORDINANCES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

That the City of Sartell will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on Monday, July 9, 2018, at the Sartell City Hall, for the purpose of updating the City Code of Ordinances regarding repeal of Key Box Installation ordinance; amendment and restatement of the City’s Rental Dwellings Ordinance; and amendment of the City’s Fee Schedule Ordinance. Copies of the proposed ordinances

are available for review at the city clerk’s office or on the City website at [www.sartellmn.com](http://www.sartellmn.com).

All interested persons are invited to attend to voice their opinion. Written comments will be accepted until the date of the hearing.

Mary Degiovanni  
City Administrator

Publish: June 15, 2018

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A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

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A drunk driver ruined something precious. Amber Apodaca.

Friends Don’t Let Friends Drive Drunk.






Photo by Michael Mazzio





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photos by Dennis Dalman

The Sartell High School Marching Band wows the crowd at SummerFest 2018. The band's performance combined exciting music with ingeniously choreographed movements.

## Fest

from front page

Nearby spectators, overhearing Oliver's remark, grinned and laughed with delight.

After the parade, there were historical guided trolley rides from city hall and a one-day historical exhibit in the city-hall lobby. There was also a bike-safety rodeo for children, a street dance and fireworks.

For the first time, the family-fun Libertyville party took place on the grounds of the new Sartell Community Center, which made for an ideal location. On part of the parking lot were row after row of picnic tables at which people munched food and socialized. Long lines of people waited to receive free hot dogs, chips and soda pop. About 1,500 hot dogs were served. On the north side of the parking lot were 10 fun booths for children – games like Wheel of Fortune, face-painting, and a man who made balloon animals and gave them to the children.

On the grassy lot next to Lake Francis were the ever-w popular assemblage of inflatables where giggling children, squealing with delight, climbed the bouncing structures and slid down to their waiting parents.

Throughout the day and night of SummerFest 2018, a good time was had by all.



photo by Dennis Dalman

Popcorn sellers Logan Clark (left) and Matthew Ruder, both members of Sartell Boy Scout Troop 211, push their popcorn wagon along the route of the Liberty Parade June 9 in Sartell.



photo by Dennis Dalman

The flag-bearing Color Guard pauses for dramatic effect during the parade performance by the Sartell High School Band. The stirring performance brought cheers from spectators.

## People

Three Sartell students were also named to the the president's honor roll at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.. To achieve this honor a student must earn a grade-point average of 3.8 or higher. They are **Chase Meyers**, **Hannah Brennan** and **McKenzie Fossen**.

Three Sartell and St. Stephen students were named to the spring dean's list at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. To be named to the list, a student's grade-point average must be in the top 15 percent.

The students are **Chase Meyers** from St. Stephen and **Hannah Brennan** and **Kelsey Ramseth** from Sartell.

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# Primary elections set for Stearns sheriff

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

Sartell voters can look forward to a primary election as a result of candidate filings that closed June 5.

The primary election is Aug. 14.

Stearns County voters will elect the first new sheriff in 16 years after four men filed.

The general election is Nov. 6. The filing period for offices that don't conduct primaries, including Sartell City Council and Sartell-St. Stephen school board, opens July 31.

Here is a list of who has

filed for contested seats. Candidates with no opposition are not listed. The individual listing includes information from the candidate's voluntary disclosure form if they filed one with the secretary of state.

- Senate District 13**  
Jeff Howe, Republican. Currently represents District 13A in the Minnesota House.
- House District 13A**  
Lisa Demuth, Republican.
- House District 13B**  
Heidi L. Everett, DFL.  
Tim O'Driscoll, Republican.
- Stearns County sheriff**  
Dave Bentrud, chief, Waite Park Police Department.  
Bob Dickhaus, lieutenant, Stearns County Sheriff's Office.  
Dwight P. Pfannenstien, acting chief, St. Joseph Police Department.  
Steve Soyka, sergeant, Stea-

rnns County Sheriff's Office.

**Stearns County auditor/treasurer**  
John William Beuning.  
Randy R. Schreifels.

**Sartell mayor (four-year term)**  
Ryan Fitzthum.  
David Peterson.

**Sartell City Council (two seats open, four-year term)**  
Brady Anel.  
Barika Davis.  
Timothy W. Elness.  
Jeff Kolb.

**Benton County commissioner District 3**

Two people have filed for Benton County commissioner in District 3, which includes the east side of Sartell. Bonni-ta Bernhardt and Steven Hein-en are running for the seat currently held by Jim McMahon.

To look up candidates for all Minnesota offices up for election, go to the secretary of state's website at <https://candidates.sos.state.mn.us/>.

## Council candidate Kolb stresses need for more businesses

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

Now that his children are older, Jeffery Kolb decided he would have time to help his new city, Sartell – perhaps even as a city council member.

Kolb (pronounced Coal-b) was the fourth person to file for one of two open council seats before the June 5 filing deadline. The others who filed are Brady Anel, Barika Davis and Tim Elness.

Kolb is a licensed mortgage professional with Homeowners Financial Group, based in Waite Park.

Kolb said he strongly believes taxes for homeowners could be lower in Sartell than they are now as long as the city aggressively does an outreach marketing campaign to attract more industries and businesses.

"There are opportunities here," he said. "We just have to market them more."

Not that Kolb is critical of the current council.

"I think the mayor and council have done many good things – the community center, plans

for a new police and fire department and other things. They have been excellent."

However, Kolb does think there must be more balance in the city tax-wise to lessen the burden on the average homeowner.

"We need more balance so Sartell is less of a bedroom community," he said.

Kolb has long believed in civic engagement, of everyone pitching in, using whatever talents they have to help their cities. His own parents were very active in that way, as is Kolb himself.

He moved to Sartell about a year ago to be closer to his work, but Kolb has known the central Minnesota area for many years. Raised in Melrose as a boy, his parents moved fairly often, mainly in the central Minnesota area. He graduated from Milaca High School, then attended the University of Minnesota in Duluth and



Kolb

Minneapolis, earning a degree in business management from Bethel College.

After college, he started his own trucking business, which he operated for 12 years before selling it, at which time he entered the world of real estate.

For 14 years he lived in the Cambridge-Isanti area where he served on the Isanti City council for four years. He was also a volunteer firefighter there for eight years. Kolb is a U.S. Navy Reserve veteran of six years, having served in California and Illinois.

He is a member of the Lions Club as its incoming vice president and a member of St. Francis Xavier Church in Sartell.

Kolb has two sons, one of them a financial analyst, the other just now about to enter high school. His daughter is studying medicine in Grand Forks.

Three other people have filed for Sartell council seats and their profiles will run in coming weeks. The candidates are Brady Anel, Barika Davis and Timothy Elness.

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# Opinion

## Our View

### Don't let fall election be all about Trump

Two names you probably haven't heard until recently, if at all, should set the agenda of issues for the midterm elections.

While the elected leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties frequently frame the choice as a referendum on Donald Trump, there are urgent issues that need action and that will shape the United States long after Trump is gone.

Asking voters to decide only if Trump is clueless and corrupt certainly is worth debating, but it's not the only crucial choice to be made this fall.

The two names Tom Steyer and Richard Painter are not elected officials of either party, but they have played background roles for years.

Steyer, who made his billions as a hedge-fund manager, "retired" from Wall Street and has used his fortune to back liberal candidates and causes. Steyer raised his national profile with television ads promoting his Need to Impeach campaign. Trump, Steyer claims, is reckless, lawless and dangerous.

Painter, who was George W. Bush's chief ethics counsel in the White House, appears on cable news frequently arguing Trump should be impeached for violating the Constitution's emoluments clause. Painter's frequent TV appearances and Tweets to half-a-million followers criticize Trump as unethical and corrupt. Painter, a law professor at the University of Minnesota, announced he's running as a Democrat for the U.S. Senate. He's competing with Sen. Tina Smith in the August DFL primary. A lifelong Republican, Painter is running as a Democrat because he says the Republicans have "gone off the deep end."

While the two men share the goal of seeing Trump impeached and removed from office, what they are saying about other issues offers an agenda for the fall and that will perhaps help Democrats focus on more than Trump's fitness for office. Republicans too should tell voters where they stand on issues beyond loyalty to Trump.

Steyer recently spoke at a town hall in Minneapolis that was part of a nationwide tour and after making the case for impeachment, he answered questions about challenges facing the country.

Painter offered his list of key issues during a Q & A with voters last week.

Both men shape the fall debate on these issues:

- Health care.
- The environment, climate change and clean air and water.
- Education funding.
- Equal rights and racial disparity in jobs and income.

In addition, Steyer's list includes protecting workers' rights and unions. Painter zeros in on climate change by asking would you buy stock in a company whose leaders disregard science? And unlike other DFLers, Painter opposes on environmental grounds opening the Iron Range to copper-nickel mining.

The elected party leaders who have trouble focusing and advancing issues should take a look at what outsiders Steyer and Painter are talking about.

This election should not just be all about Trump.

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.

## Beware the virtues of a paperless world

**Mike Knaak**  
*Editor*



through the metal detector and the ticket taker tried to scan my phone for our two tickets.

No deal. The scanner couldn't see the code. The ticket guy tried several more scans, twisting and angling the scanner and my phone to get just the right shot at the bar code. Meanwhile, the line of other fans stacked up behind us. Finally, he asked another official to help. He entered the number manually on the scanner and it worked.

We had the same issue with digital tickets several times last year. The ticket taker said the scanner was too sensitive to sunlight so the ticket needed to be in the shade and scanned at just the right angle. I had hoped the Twins had improved their technology before this season because the sun often shines at baseball games.

At last we were in the park and it was time to find some food.

We like Kramarczuk's Polish sausage and bratwurst. After ordering, my spouse tried to pay with her credit card, but the chip reader said her account was invalid. So, I tried with my debit

card. That didn't work either. Obviously, the chip card reader was broken. I offered to pay cash, but the server wasn't able to read my discount card either. Not being able to take advantage of a 10-percent discount for more than \$20 worth of food didn't cut it. Still hungry, we moved on to another food stand with functioning technology.

The digital disaster at the baseball game followed a day when I wrestled with the old technology of paper checks. I write maybe 10 checks a year and I needed to pay a business that didn't offer on-line payments. Opening my dusty checkbook I found I was out of checks. Now I couldn't find my stash of blank checks. It had been so long since I last needed a new pad, I thought I was out of them and needed to order some more. After some research and digging, I did indeed have more blank checks....last ordered more than four years ago.

Back at Target Field, the game ended with a Twins victory. As we left our seats and headed for the exit, I noticed the Kramarczuk's worker and two Target Field staffers gathered around the offending digital payment technology, trying to get it to work. At that point, I'll bet the old world of paper looked pretty attractive to them too.

## Is it time for online retailers to pay sales tax?

**Connor Kockler**  
*Guest Writer*



every year to online retailers. These retailers cite former cases from the Supreme Court that ruled companies without a physical presence in the states they are selling to do not have to collect that state's sales tax.

The Supreme Court previously ruled in the 1992 case Quill v. North Dakota that a mail-order catalog company from Illinois could not be forced to collect North Dakota sales tax on orders made by the state's residents. However, this was before the era of major online sales, and many in the country have felt that change is long overdue. Congress has attempted to pass laws on the subject, and many states ask citizens to voluntarily report online sales taxes with little success.

Online sellers claim they are within the bounds of the law, and point out the complexities of tax codes around the country. These vary not just between states but between cities and towns. Only large businesses with many resources would actually be able to properly account for these taxes, they argue, and forcing sales tax compliance on small internet businesses could

potentially hurt them.

On-the-ground businesses large and small have been for years disadvantaged by their online competitors' lack of having to collect sales taxes, and this case is seen as an opportunity to finally put online and physical sales back on a level playing field. States and other authorities are also watching to see whether they will earn back an income stream threatened by these new online developments.

Whatever the Supreme Court's decision may be, I hope they respect the impact this issue has on all parties involved. This is an important decision to make, and the arguments should be weighed carefully. Congress should also be taking action on the question of on-line sales taxes. Efforts to legislate them at a federal level have often failed, but our representatives have a responsibility to address this situation as it affects so many people throughout the country. In a republic such as ours, we as citizens also have a responsibility to know about problems such as this and make our voices heard. We'll have to see what the reaction is after the justices have made their decision.

*Connor Kockler is a student at St. John's University. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.*

# A grand ol’ flag and a bunch of others

Memorial Day is just behind us and the Fourth of July is ahead. But, sandwiched in between both of those patriotic holidays is another oft-forgotten – Flag Day on June 14.

I’m not here to discuss what the holiday means or anything else, but rather the American flag itself. I suspect I may have some opinions that could be unpopular or controversial, but I ask you hear me out.

The American flag is an icon for our country. Now, whatever “America” as an idea may mean to you or should mean is another topic entirely. Iconography, however, is something I really enjoy talking about. Icons are a shorthand representation of something larger. We encounter

them all the time now in our digital user interfaces, but for the longest time icons were relegated just to things like letters, numbers, signs and (you guessed it) flags.

The American flag is an icon for America. What bothers me is seeing the American flag co-opted by other groups. America is all of us, whether we agree or disagree. No one group is more American than another. When groups co-opt the American flag, in a way they are saying they are America, and anyone not them is not America. I don’t agree with that notion.

As part of the St. Cloud Municipal Band, I played at the VA for their program to honor our soldiers on Memorial

Patric Lewandowski

Guest Writer



Day. There were many flags and such. Our servicemen and servicewomen are fighting and dying for all of America, whether they agree with you or not. America is a singular entity in that respect.

I don’t like seeing the American flag displayed in a similar fashion by civic groups. Specifically, I don’t like the mutated version of the American flag that oftentimes people who want to support their local law enforcement will use. This ver-

sion looks like an American flag, except it has changed its colors to be black and white with one blue stripe.

I don’t like this version of the flag for a multitude of reasons. First, the American flag is red, white and blue. By changing the colors, you’ve changed the icon. The geek in me says it’s not official, that it’s fan art. I also don’t like it equates civic police officers, who do have a level of danger in their chosen careers, with servicemen and servicewomen who are sent out of their communities into openly hostile territory. Police officers do a great service to their community, but they are not soldiers.

Imagine if every civic or local

group altered the American flag. Do you support the librarians? Better fly an American flag that has red and black stripes with yellow stars. Doctors save lives, so show your support for them with your red and blue-striped flag with blue stars on a white field. Seems silly now, doesn’t it? Even worse, it really is diluting what the actual American flag can and should be.

It’s OK to support police, and you should because without them we’d all be massively screwed. You can even think of them as heroes if you want. But, don’t wrap them in the flag. It cheapens both the men and women who serve our communities and the American flag.

## Community Calendar

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

**Friday, June 15**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.  
**St. Joseph Farmers’ Market,** 3-6:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, C.R. 2.  
**St. Cloud Singles Club Dance,** 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

**Saturday, June 16**  
**St. Cloud Area Farmers’ Market,** 8 a.m.-noon, Lady Slipper parking lot, downtown St. Cloud.  
**St. Cloud Waite Park Harvest Market,** 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Crossroads Center parking lot, 4101 W. Division St., St. Cloud.  
**Community Meal,** 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107

Pinecone Road S., Sartell.  
**Quarry Parks 20th Anniversary Celebration,** 10 a.m.-2 p.m., rock climbing, park scavenger hunt, derrick demonstrations, historical re-enactment, mammal and wetland education, and an aquarium photo booth. 1802 CR 137 Waite Park, 320-255-6172.

**Monday, June 18**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.  
**Lunch and cards,** sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-3 p.m., Rusty Nail, 4 CR 2 S., St. Stephen.  
**Market Monday,** 3-6:30 p.m., parking lot of Coborn’s Market Place, 1725 Pinecone Road S., Sartell. marketmonday.org.  
**Tinville Lions Club,** 7 p.m., Rollie’s Rednecks and Longnecks Bar, 940 35th Ave. NE, Sauk Rapids.

**Tuesday, June 19**  
**Community Lunch and Entertainment,** sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-2 p.m., St. Stephen Parish Hall, 103 CR 2 S. 320-746-9960.  
**Central Minnesota Market,** 3-5:30 p.m., VA Health Care System, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-251-2498.  
**St. Cloud Area Genealogists,** 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S.,

St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org.  
**Wednesday, June 20**  
**SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together),** 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S.  
**Sartell Muskies Celebrate 40th Season** and first inductees into the Muskies Hall of Fame, 7 p.m. Champion Field, 802 12th St. N., Sartell.

**Thursday, June 21**  
**Coffee and Conversation,** a senior discussion group featuring NFL referee Mike Spainer, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.  
**Lemonade Concert and Art Fair,** 11a.m.-8:30 p.m., St. Cloud State University, 720 Fourth Ave. S., St. Cloud. 320-308-2205.  
**Family Farmers’ Market,** 2-6 p.m., River East parking lot, CentraCare Health Plaza, 1900 CentraCare Circle, St. Cloud. 320-252-2422.

**Sauk Rapids Farmers’ Market,** 3-6 p.m., Coborn’s parking lot, 110 First St. S., Sauk Rapids.  
**Ice Cream Social,** 4:30-6:30 p.m., hosted by Sartell Senior Connection, Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell. 320-217-5367.  
**American Legion-Sartell,** open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Liquid

Assets, 1091 Second St. S. Ste. 600, Sartell. john.denney@charter.net.  
**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, June 22**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.  
**St. Joseph Farmers’ Market,** 3-6:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, C.R. 2.

**Saturday, June 23**  
**St. Cloud Area Farmers’ Market,** 8 a.m.-noon, Lady Slipper parking lot, downtown St. Cloud.  
**St. Cloud Waite Park Harvest Market,** 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Crossroads Center parking lot, 4101 W. Division St., St. Cloud.

**Monday, June 25**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.  
**Lunch and cards,** sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-2 p.m., Trobec’s Bar & Grill, 1 Central Ave. S., St. Stephen.  
**Market Monday,** 3-6:30 p.m., parking lot of Coborn’s Market Place, 1725 Pine-

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

**Tuesday, June 26**  
**Central Minnesota Market,** 3-5:30 p.m., VA Health Care System, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-251-2498.

**Thursday, June 28**  
**Coffee and Conversation,** a senior discussion group featuring Terebinth Refuge, sex trafficking prevention in the St. Cloud area, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

**Family Farmers’ Market,** 2-6 p.m., River East parking lot, CentraCare Health Plaza, 1900 CentraCare Circle, St. Cloud. 320-252-2422.  
**Sauk Rapids Farmers’ Market,** 3-6 p.m., Coborn’s parking lot, 110 First St. S., Sauk Rapids.  
**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, June 29**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

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# Sharing of dates to mark end of Ramadan

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Shortly before June 15, Zurya Anjum of Sartell went to Sam's Club to buy \$700-worth of dates.

No, Anjum is not addicted to dates. She's going to buy so many of them because of Ramadan. The dates will be shared with many others at the men's Muslim mosque in St. Cloud, part of the ritual of breaking the month-long fast called Ramadan. Later, others will spend another \$1,000 for dates to distribute at the family mosque.

Like many Muslims in central Minnesota, Anjum, who is a psychiatrist at the VA Health Care System, and her husband, Dr. Shakeel Anjum, a doctor with CentraCare, have been fasting daily since May 16 and will continue to refrain from food and water 17 hours a day until the end of Ramadan, June 15.

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and is dedicated to a prolonged fasting to honor the first revelation to the prophet Muhammed from the archangel Gabriel in a cave in 610 AD. The revelations as revealed to Muhammed comprise the first part of the "Quran," which is the holy book of the Islamic religion.

During the Ramadan fast, Is-

lamic adherents are not allowed to eat or consume liquids during an approximately 17-hour period daily from 3:30 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. However, before 3:30 a.m. Ramadan fasters can eat, and they can enjoy food after 8:45 p.m.

The reason for so many dates is that for centuries the end of the Ramadan fast was celebrated with the consumption of dates. The date, so common in the Middle East, is a "complete food" with nearly every nutrient the body needs for sustenance.

There is a deeper reason for fasting during Ramadan, Anjum explained. Fasting is supposed to result in a cleansing of the soul, a time of spiritual intensity when Muslims are expected to show empathy and compassion for others through charitable works. The fasting process demands self-control, sacrifice and kindness, which leads to a renewed appreciation for others less fortunate.

Fasting is not required for Muslims who are children, people suffering from disabilities or illnesses, and women who are pregnant or breast-feeding.

The Anjums' two young children, Summbla and Yazaan, do not participate in the fasting process.

Ramadan, Anjum noted, is



photo by Dennis Dalman

**Drs. Shakeel and Zurya Anjum pause for a photo after the Sartell Memorial Day ceremony in Sartell May 28. Their two children are Summbla (second from left) and Yazaan. Summbla is a flute player with the Sartell High School Marching Band, which performed tunes at the Memorial Day observance.**

based on the lunar calendar (not the Western Gregorian calendar). For that reason, the month changes every year by 10 days. Next year, for example, Ramadan will start 10 days earlier, on May 6 rather than this year's May 16.

Zurya said many acquaintances have asked her: "Why do you fast so long?"

She tells them it is a way for disciplining oneself, a way to

understand the plight of those who do not have food. The fast makes participants more charitable and compassionate, she said.

"I look forward to Ramadan," she said.

She and her husband were born and grew up in Pakistan and so Ramadan was always a widespread cause for excitement. When they moved to the United States, it was a bit of a struggle to adapt to celebrating

Ramadan in a new country because of time constraints, prayer schedules and so forth.

But they managed to adapt, just as they learned to adapt to Minnesota's frigid winters. And now, the Anjum family is looking forward to June 15 when they and their friends can celebrate the end of Ramadan with the sharing of dates and good fellowship.

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