

Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader

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Town Crier

Newsleaders to print
bi-monthly this summer

The Newsleaders will begin publishing the print editions every other week during this summer. Publication dates are as follows: June 1, 15 and 29, July 13 and 27 and Aug. 10 and 24. Advertising deadlines are noon Tuesday prior to the Friday you wish to run; editorial deadlines are noon Monday. The Newsleader apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. Please continue to enjoy editorial content, which will be updated daily on our website at thenewsleaders.com.

K of C Breakfast for a Seminarian June 3

The Knights of Columbus of St. Joseph will hold its last breakfast of the season from 8:30 a.m.-noon Sunday, June 3 at Heritage Hall in the Church of St. Joseph, 12 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph. This breakfast is designated for the support of a seminarian. Please come and help us support a seminarian by enjoying an all-you-care-to-eat delicious homemade breakfast of Pep's pork sausage, St. Joseph Meat Market sausage, pancakes, hash browns, fruit, scrambled eggs, caramel and cinnamon rolls, and beverages. Sunday Mass will be at 8 and 10 a.m.

Register now for Sabre Open

The second annual Sabre Open will be held Friday, June 15 at Blackberry Ridge in Sartell to benefit the Sartell-St. Stephen Boys' Hockey program. Registration includes cart, golf, range balls and dinner. Register by June 1 to receive a discount. Alumni and Sabre boys' hockey players also receive a discount. Golfers can also take part in the silent raffle, 50/50 raffle and course games/contests. For more player or sponsor information, please contact Summer Hagy: skse22@hotmail.com.

For additional criers, visit www.thenewsleaders.com and click on Criers.

INSERTS:
City of St. Stephen
Good to Go
Pinecone Vision Center
Sartell Summerfest

Athletes compete in 35th Apple Duathlon



photo by Mike Knaak

Runners in the Apple Duathlon Elite Division take off from Sartell Middle School May 26. Athletes start with a 5K run followed by a 33K bike route and end with another 5K run.

Fischbach resigns Senate seat; Howe will run in special election

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Michelle Fischbach's resignation from the Minnesota Senate means there will be a special election this fall for Senate District 13.

Fischbach resigned May 25 and took the oath of office for lieutenant governor, a post she's legally held since January.

Current District 13A Rep. Jeff Howe announced May 29 that he will run in the special election to fill Fischbach's Senate seat.

Howe, a Republican from

Rockville, was first elected to the House in 2012 and was reelected in 2014 and 2016. Prior to his election to the legislature, Howe served on the Rockville City Council.

When former Lt. Gov. Tiny Smith resigned to take Al Franken's vacated U.S. Senate seat, Fischbach who was president of the Senate, automatically



Fischbach

became lieutenant governor as set forth in the Minnesota Constitution.

Fischbach's assertion that she could hold both her Senate seat and serve as lieutenant governor triggered lawsuits. One was thrown out in February and second suit was set for a June hearing.

Fischbach, a Republican from Paynesville, has represented Dis-



Howe

trict 13 since 1996. The district includes Sartell and St. Joseph. Fischbach says she has no plans to run in the special election that will coincide with the Nov. 6 general election.

Fischbach's resignation leaves the Senate evenly split with 33 Republicans and 33 Democrats.

Because the Legislature has adjourned, her resignation will not affect law-making.

Candidates have until June 5 to file and if necessary, there will be a primary election on Aug. 14.

SummerFest to host family fun June 9

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A big parade, family fun 'n' games, live music, a street dance, fireworks – those are some of the highlights of the upcoming 26th annual Sartell SummerFest on Saturday, June 9, in Sartell.

Each summer, the free festival attracts many thousands of people from far and wide.

The following is a list of activities:

10 a.m. The Liberty Bank Parade begins at the Watab Park area on Riverside Avenue and will proceed north

on Riverside to Seventh Street N. There it will take a left and finish on the grounds of the Sartell Middle School. The parade will feature 80 units, including nine marching bands. Volunteers are needed for the parade. To learn more or to volunteer, go to sartellsummerfest@hotmail.com.

Noon-5 p.m. The Libertyville Party. This free family-fun event will take place on the grounds of the new Sartell Community Center at 850 19th St. S., southeast of the PineCone Marketplace mall. There will be inflatables, Fest • page 3



photo by Dennis Dalman

This photo, taken in 2015, shows the Sartell Middle School Marching Band as they performed in Sartell SummerFest.

People

Brigid Brew of Sartell recently earned a bachelor's degree in marketing at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

Seven Sartell students recently graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead. They are: **Megan Franz**, daughter of Jody and Mark Franz, summa cum laude, business and Spanish; **Curt Koopmeiners**, son of Candice Koopmeiners, cum laude, nursing; **Benjamin Maurer**, son of Lisa and Mike Maurer, nursing and Spanish; **Emma Mitzel**, daughter of Debra and Steven Ubl-Mitzel, magna cum laude, nursing; **Kevin Wolfe**, son of Terri and John Wolfe, magna cum laude, biology and chemistry; **Alyssa Yapp**, daughter of Tammie and Keith Yapp, magna cum laude, music education; and **Jessica Warzecka**, daughter of Sandy and Keith Warzecka, summa cum laude, biology.

Marie Anderson was recently awarded an Excellence Scholarship to attend Concordia College, Moorhead. Anderson is the daughter of James Anderson, Sartell, and April Anderson-Vaughn, Sauk Rapids, and a graduate of Sartell High School.



contributed photo

Forty fourth-graders at Pine Meadow Elementary School participated in the Final Battle of the Books on May 21. Students had to read at least seven books and complete seven note sheets to qualify to participate after being invited. Winning team members include (front row, left to right) Lily Rosso, Molly Williamson and Heidi Beck; and (back row) Natalie Spoden, Finn Nelson, Camden Norman, Ady Braegelmann, Abby Sanborn, Sienna Kliber. These students read all 14 books and did the notes: Dylan Hansen, Harper Hoffman, Molly Williamson and Carson Sanborn.

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Forty fourth-graders participated in the Final Battle of the Books on May 23 at Oak Ridge Elementary School. Students are as follows: (front row) third-place team Paige Francois and Alivia Dixon; (middle row) second-place team Isaac Bergstrom, Graham Huse and Maddox Lewis; and (back row) first-place team Hayden Lenarz, Bennett Bommersbach and Patrick Kapoor.

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People

Seven Sartell students recently graduated from Sauk Rapids-Rice High School. They are the following: **Emily Berg, Miranda Hertz, Jaid Hubbs, Kirsten Koskinen, Connor Silbernack, Rachel Taszarek and Brooke Westerhoff.**

Eight Sartell students recently graduated from Cathedral High School. They are the following: **Catherine Bowe, Alexandru Florea, Samuel Hanson, Keagan Kearney, Claire Ramler, Lucas Rykhus, Alexander Tomczik and Tyler Zabinski.**

Six Sartell-St. Stephen students recently graduated from Holdingford High School. They are the following: **Evan DeMorett, Shelby Nitz, Haylee Pogatchnik, Lucas Ryan, Tessa Schwinghammer and Alexis Stanoch.** DeMorett, Ryan and Stanoch are from Sartell; Nitz, Pogatchnik and Schwinghammer are from St. Stephen.

Gabriel Woodard, son of Zhanna and Brandyn Woodard of Sartell, recently graduate from St. John’s Prepratory School.

Hannah Ritter of Sartell recently graduated from Rocori High School.

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.

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 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.

Fest

from front page

music, airbrush tattoos, hot dogs, burgers, pop and lots of games and prizes. The big party is sponsored by Liberty Bank Minnesota.

1-3 p.m. There will be three historical trolley tours of Sartell, starting at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. The rides will leave from the Sartell City Hall parking lot. However, space on the trolley rides is limited. To reserve a seat, call Ann at 253-4036, ext. 4.

1-3 p.m. The Sartell Hospitality and Visitors Service

Bike Safety Rodeo will take place along Scout Drive near the Sartell Community Center. Adults should make sure children bring safety helmets along with bicycles. There will be bike tune-ups and a riding course at which children will learn lots of safety tips, such as how to bicycle at a roundabout. The event is sponsored by the Sartell Police Department and Project BrainSafe. This event, too, is free.

5 p.m.-12:30 a.m. The Great River Bowl & Partners Pub Street Dance will take place just outside Great River Bowl at 208 Second St. S. There will be live music by local bands Radio Nation at 5:30 p.m. and

Diamondback starting at 8:30 p.m. There is no admission charge for the music or dance party.

10 p.m. The Blue Line Sports Bar & Grill Fireworks show will begin in the open area just south of the street dance at Great River Bowl.

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Morgan speaks of ‘Wounds’ at Memorial Day ceremony

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

Bill Morgan of Sartell has a lot to remember every Memorial Day because so many soldiers in so many wars have affected him personally, deeply, sorrowfully.

Morgan, a history writer and retired American Studies professor, was the keynote speaker at the Sartell Memorial Day ceremony May 28 in Veterans Park, the 150th anniversary of the founding of Memorial Day. Morgan’s memories visibly moved his listeners who reacted with a mixture of empathy and awe.

His speech was entitled “Wounds of War: Honoring America’s Veterans.”

Morgan’s relations were all touched by war, starting in the American Civil War (1861-1865). When that war first broke out, Morgan’s maternal great-grandfather, Jason Brown, who was a farmer in Wisconsin, enlisted and fought in the war’s first major battle – Bull Run, Virginia. Early on the afternoon of July 21, 1861 he died in the sad irony of “friendly fire.” His body was never found. That incident, Morgan said, remains for him and his family relations “Wound Number One.”

He then went on to recount five other “Wounds” – both physical and emotional.

Wound two

Brown’s son, Warrington Brown, also a farmer who was Morgan’s grandfather, enlisted three years after his father died in battle and joined another Wisconsin regiment. On April 2, 1865, seven days before the war’s end, Brown’s company was ordered to attack a fortifica-

tion near Petersburg, Virginia. A rebel soldier shot Brown in the head. A surgeon removed the lead ball, which left a hole in Brown’s head with a silver plate inside. The doctor told Brown he would go insane by the time he turns 40, a fear he lived with constantly. But, lo and behold, Brown lived to the ripe old age of 92.

“Sitting on his lap when I was a child, I could see the hole with the silver plate at its base,” Morgan told the audience.

In 1934, that grandfather war hero, who was the last surviving Civil War veteran in the country, turned 88. He had been a founding member of Pipestone (Minnesota) County’s Grand Army of the Republic. At the G.A.R. meeting in 1934, Brown sat alone and then closed the meeting while toasting his comrades with a glass of wine.

Wound three

Morgan’s father, William Towner Morgan Sr., was too old to fight in World War I, but he belonged to the Home Guard. But then a wound he suffered led to tragic consequences for his wife, four children and an unborn fifth child. In December 1932, while hunting, he scratched himself on a barbed-wire fence. The untended wound led to influenza and then to spinal meningitis, causing William’s death one January day in 1933. He was only 49.

Wound four

The day after D-Day (June 6, 1944, the invasion of Europe by the Allied forces), Morgan’s brother was one of the soldiers who, after crossing the English Channel, stepped upon

the bloody beaches of northern France as German occupiers let loose with a barrage of deadly force.

Alan Morgan walked upon one of the bloodiest landing areas, dubbed Omaha Beach. He was later wounded during the push to drive the Nazi invaders out of France.

During that same time frame, Alan’s (and Morgan’s) brother Bud parachuted into Germany where he set up an aid station in a farmer’s barn. Bud has been a battalion surgeon with the U.S. 17th Airborne Division.

Wound five

Morgan’s first cousin, Marine Sgt. Bill Genaust, was a combat photographer in World War II. On Feb. 22, 1945, he filmed the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima island’s Mt. Suribachi. A photograph of that flag-raising remains one of the most iconic images in the history of photography.

Nine days after filming the flag-raising, Genaust died in a cave while flushing out Japanese holdouts. Since his body was never recovered, he is still listed as missing in action. He was one of 6,821 Marines killed in the 37-day struggle to wrest Iwo Jima away from Japanese control.

Wound six

Morgan’s oldest nephew, William Stannard Forman, was a St. John’s University student, Class of ’57, who decided to make service in the U.S. Navy his career.

During the Vietnam War, he was a pilot returning to the aircraft carrier, the USS Hornet, in the Bay of Tonkin. He was reported as missing in action on Jan. 22, 1966. His mother (Morgan’s sister) and her husband never ceased believing their son would someday come home. In another sad irony, his parents died three years before the government announcement that their son had been killed



photo by Dennis Dalman

The Sartell High School Marching Band performs a stirring series of patriotic songs during the 2018 Memorial Day ceremony in Sartell.

in action the day he was listed as missing. An enemy gunner had shot down his plane while he was coming in for a carrier landing.

“Those men made major sacrifices while serving their country,” Morgan said, “three of them the ultimate sacrifice.”

Sartell veterans

Morgan noted a brass plaque that hangs in the Sartell Community Center lists the names of 17 veterans from Sartell, including many with the last name “Sartell.” Earl, Victor and Norris Sartell served during World War I when Sartell’s population was only about 500. Eighty-five residents – including Charles, Richard, Roscoe and Thomas Sartell – fought in World War II. Seven of the 85 never returned from that war.

Morgan himself is a veteran who served for two years in the U.S. Army during peacetime in the 1950s.

“I would not exchange my own two-year peacetime Army service for the world,” he said. “. . . Our group of 12 companions formed what has resulted in a 60-year bond. Of we five still alive, one will close the book on our experience, toasting with a glass of wine.”

Other highlights

The Sartell Memorial Day Service was moderated by Joyce O’Driscoll, the mother of State Rep. Tim O’Driscoll (R-Sartell) and former Sartell mayor, who also spoke at the event.

Other speakers included welcomes or comments by American Legion of Sartell Commander Chuck Haselkamp; Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville), who was just sworn in as the state’s new lieutenant-governor; Sartell police school-liason officer Adam Vande Vrede (a U.S. Marine veteran), city council member David Peterson (also a veteran), student Jasmine Al-Fraijat, who gave a reading of the poem “Flanders Field;” Pastor Jim Goodew of Faith Baptist Fellowship; and Rollie Weis, a Sartell World War II veteran, who is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, World War II veteran still living, who read the Legion Prayer.

Guest bagpiper Joe Linneman performed tunes, and the Sartell High School Marching Band played a stirring series of patriotic songs.

There was, as always, the placing of the wreath, the planting of flags by Scouts, a rifle squad, a gun salute and the playing of taps.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Members of American Legion Post 277 of Sartell listen quietly to Bill Morgan’s speech May 28 at the Sartell Memorial Day ceremony in Veterans Park.



photo by Dennis Dalman

Audience members bow their heads in prayer during a blessing given by the Rev. Jim Goodew of Faith Baptist Fellowship Church.

Stone Poneys – a team looking to jell

by **Dave DeMars**
news@thenewsleaders.com

Back in 2010, town baseball was flourishing in central Minnesota, especially in Sartell. The Sartell Muskies were the local team and as is usual, the size of the roster was limited. There were a lot of guys with a real passion for the game that were being left on the sidelines because there just wasn't enough playing time and positions to accommodate them. The shortage of playing time



photo by Dave DeMars
Jeff Amann is the manager and coach of the Sartell Stone Poneys, but when occasion demands, Amann takes his aging 32-year-old arm to the mound and fires strikes to opposing batters.

gave rise to a second team – the Sartell Stone Poneys. By 2014, Jeff Amann had joined the Stone Poneys. He had been playing town ball since 2006, so he had plenty of experience and obviously had a passion for the game. In 2015, he was asked to take over as the team manager. He has been the manager since that time. It's a job that takes time, lots of time, according to Amann. "It's a ton of work," Amann said, "and a lot of times players don't appreciate it because they

don't understand all the work that goes into it. But I wanted the team to stick around because I had fun playing and I wanted to do what I can." This year the Stone Poneys are having a tough time getting going, but that doesn't slow down Amann. He has a good case of optimism, and he knows it takes time to build a team. And that seems to be the catch. A lot of hometown teams have well-seasoned players who have been in the game for 10 or 15 years. That is a problem for the Stone Poneys, Amann said. Right now, Amann and one other guy are the only ones over age 25. That means they have a lot of new faces in the lineup. There were nine new faces on the team last year, and this year there are eight more new faces on the team. There are many first- and second-year players stepping up to take a cut at the ball. Right now, the team could be thin for several games because a lot of the players are still playing college ball. In fact, the Stone Poneys have one player who is still playing high school ball and waiting to finish that

season before joining the Stone Poneys. In a recent May 23 game against the Clear Lake Lakers, Amann used his aging 32-year-old arm for seven innings. His first three innings went well, but the Lakers caught up to him in the fourth. "Clear Lake hit the ball well," Amann said. "They had a couple of bloop hits that we maybe should have caught, but what killed us was that we left so many guys on base. We had the bases loaded a few times and we didn't score. We had guys in scoring positions a few times and we didn't score." That night the team was missing some of its power hitters. It's important to have the right guys to put in positions like that, Amann said. "It's kind of frustrating," Amann said, "but at the same time I thought it went alright for this early in the year." Once he gets his power hitters back and all the guys who are still playing ball elsewhere, Amann looks to inflict a little hurt on those rival teams. Speaking of the May 23 loss, Amann said eight of the nine

players had been signed within the last 2017-2018 season. "I was the only guy (who) had more than a year's experience," Amann said. "Kimball who won the state tournament last year – they have guys who have played together for 16 years. They know each other. They know how each other works." That is what the Stone Poneys are trying to figure out. And they have a short amount of time to do it. Amann thinks they may be jelled by mid-June or the first of July. "Our record right now is 0-6," Amann said, "but I think come late summer when we've got everyone there, and we kind of got the routine down, I think we could make it to playoff ball." The Stone Poneys also have a few new pitchers who have been throwing but have not been in games yet. If they come through, Amann said he feels the team will be very competitive. "If all these guys continue to stick together, we are going to do just fine," Amann said.

Stone Poneys lose to Lakers, 11-6

by **Dave DeMars**
news@thenewsleaders.com

The game was tight for the first three innings. The Poneys even filled the bases in the second, but alas, those runners died on base. It was Clear Lake that managed to crack a blooper into short left field and loaded the bases with a walk and a bunt. With the bases loaded, the Lakers cracked a line double to center field and scored a couple of runs. A third run scored shortly after on a wild ball by the pitcher. Neither team scored in the fourth inning, but Clear Lake hit a home run over the center-field fence in the top of the fifth inning to make it 4-0. In the bottom of the fifth, Jacob Light managed to drive in a run for the Poneys, but that was all they could muster and the score stood 4-1. In the top of the seventh inning, the Poneys pulled their pitcher Jeff Amann for Alex Kreiling who struck out the first man he faced for the second out of the inning. But then Clear Lake managed to drive home two more runs making it 7-1. The Poneys came up and managed to load the bases. A chop infield hit to the pitcher forced an out at home and the Poneys left the bases loaded for a second time.

In the top of the eighth with a man on, Clear Lake managed another home run over the left-field fence giving them a 9-1 lead going into the ninth inning. In the ninth, Clear Lake added two more runs, but the Poneys staged a comeback in the bottom of the ninth. The Poneys got two men on with a walk and a single. A second walk loaded the bases for the third time. Two more walks made the score 11-3 with the bases still loaded. A dribbler back to the pitcher made an easy force out at home, but in trying to create a double play, the ball sailed over the first baseman's head and allowed another run to score, 11-4. A pop fly into short right field scored two more runs making it 11-6, but that

was all the Poneys could rally for as they left two men on in the ninth. **Albertville Villains way-lay the Stone Poneys, 13-3** Despite being outhit by the Villains 12 to 7, the combination of walks and hits allowed the Villains to pile up 13 runs in a shortened game. **Cold Spring Springers trounce Muskies, 7-2** In a long-awaited home opener, the Cold Spring Springers showed that late starts at home can be beneficial as they beat the Sartell Muskies, 7-2. Sartell managed to corral six hits, but managed to only score two runs in a hard-fought game. Cold Spring managed 10 hits and scored seven runs off losing pitcher David Deminsky.



photo by Dave DeMars
Third baseman Logan Peratalo prepares to put the tag on a Clear Lake runner that had strayed too far down the third-base line in the May 23 game at Champion field in Sartell.

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Opinion

Our View

Ask candidates if they are ready for compromise

Which political environment produces results? Some people argue that divided government – one party controlling the executive branch and the opposition controlling the legislative – works because the opposing parties serve as a check on the extreme stands of the other and the result is a middle-ground compromise.

The alternative viewpoint – one party controls both the executive and legislative branches – is more efficient because the people’s representatives and the governor or president have the same agenda.

Results from the recently concluded legislative session and ongoing paralysis on major issues in Washington, D.C. prove that neither arrangement delivers results.

But maybe it’s not an issue of divided vs. not-divided government that’s important, but how the people filling the chairs operate.

“The business of politics is the conciliation of differing interests,” British political theorist Bernard Crick wrote in his book “In Defense of Politics.” Conciliation is the alternative to outright warfare. Politics in a democracy assumes we can find ways of living and working together even when we disagree. That’s why we need politicians who take this mission seriously.

Politics is about creating a decent society, a task that can only be accomplished when citizens find ways of cooperating.

That’s not what happened in St. Paul.

The Legislature adjourned without a solution to conform the Minnesota tax code to the federal overhaul passed in December. The Republican-controlled House and Senate sent Gov. Mark Dayton a tax bill that would cut income-tax rates and allow the state to set its own deductions and exemptions. Dayton said it favors tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations and he threatened to veto it.

For Minnesota taxpayers, that means confusion, a stressful tax season ahead and some people paying higher taxes.

Despite three months of debate, the governor and Legislature could not agree on measures for school funding and school safety, leaving districts guessing about their own budget decisions.

The \$825-million bonding bill for roads, buildings and infrastructure upgrades did pass but it was smaller than the governor wanted. He’ll probably sign it.

The results from Washington, where Republicans control the White House and Congress, are not much better. After 16 months of Republican leadership there’s no action on immigration, including fixing Donald Trump’s cruel executive order on DACA recipients, no action to improve health care, no action to repair and replace bridges, roads, railroads or airports.

The Republicans are very proud of their tax bill, which blows a hole in the deficit by giving the people who least need it tax relief.

With midterm elections five months away, don’t expect any action on those other key issues which were a big part of the 2016 campaign.

When you are making choices of who to elect governor, to the state Legislature, to the U.S. House or U.S. Senate, the priority question for candidates is how they are going to resolve differing interests.

Are they running to give us two more years of conflict and gridlock or are they ready for conciliation and compromise?

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.

Readers’ letters round out opinion page

Informed opinions, vigorously argued, form the foundation of democracy. The opinions appearing on this page (and sometimes the next page as well) are offered in that spirit.

The editorial that regularly appears to the left of this column represents the Newsleader’s view of current events. Newspaper editorials aren’t meant to tell readers how to think, but instead serve as a starting point for discussion or to focus attention on an issue readers might want to debate.

Connor Kockler, Dennis Dalman, Patric Lewandowski and I share the right side of the page with our columns. We write about a variety of topics – local and national. I like to share my take on current local issues, offer my perspective on the joys and oddities of everyday life and sometimes remind readers of the historical context of current events.

Like the editorial on the left side of the page, the four of us aren’t trying to tell you how to think but get you thinking, start a conversation or maybe just share a common moment.

Because we’re a small operation, Dennis and I also write news stories. When we’re reporting, we set aside our opinions and make decisions about what and how to cover a story

After many years, the path I’ve been on is finally coming to a close. By coming to a close, I mean graduating from high school. After four years of high school and more years in earlier schooling, it’s time to make the jump to the next step of life. While I look forward to what’s ahead, I want to first reflect what is now past.

High school graduation is an event that is talked about as a significant milestone in one’s life. Though it hasn’t really set in yet, I’m starting to slowly but surely feel the signs. At school, you heard talk of the events coming up in May, thinking they were so distant, but really approaching at a breakneck pace. Friends and family at holiday gatherings asked questions about college plans and future careers. The phrase “Class of 2018,” long a distant specter in the back of students’ minds, suddenly took on its full meaning.

At Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, we certainly took it to heart. A “Change the Culture” movement arose and brought passion and energy to our sports games and classrooms. Seniors from our school accomplished so many great things, and were recognized for their athletic, academic, artistic and community achievements. It was amazing to live through these days and see many students I’ve known for so

Letters policy

The Newsleader welcomes letters to the editor on current topics of local interest.

Writers are limited to one letter every three months.

Letters must be signed and include contact information, such as an email or

Mike
Knaak
Editor



based on standards of fairness and significance. You may not agree with the stories we choose to report, where they end up in the newspaper or who we choose to interview, but we make those decisions by applying news judgment and set aside our opinions or biases.

Letters from readers also appear on these pages and I’d like to see more of them.

I invite readers to respond to editorials and columns as well as raise new issues.

We do have some guidelines for letter writers.

The Newsleader welcomes letters to the editor on current topics of local interest.

Writers are limited to one letter every three months.

Letters must be signed and include contact information, such as an email or phone number, for verification, but that information will not be published.

During election campaigns, letters

long achieving their goals this year.

But getting this far isn’t a solo effort. There are so many parents, teachers, coaches and other mentors who have given the Class of 2018 such great advice, pushed us to do our best and helped us to recognize the important things in life. So many people work selflessly every day to ensure the success of our local students, and I hope they know how much their efforts really mean to every single one of us.

I will always remember starting high school as a young freshman, looking up in awe at the seniors and feeling like it would be forever until I was one of them. Looking back now, it really feels like no time has passed at all. Though the time has flown by, there are so many memories made that will last for the rest of my life. I have met so many amazing, inspiring people and had experiences that will shape my worldview going forward.

One thing I’m most proud of doing in high school, and encourage every current student to do, is

phone number, for verification, but that information will not be published.

During election campaigns, letters will be chosen to present a variety of opinions.

Letters that do not run in print will appear on our website, www.thenewsleaders.com.

Connor
Kockler
Guest Writer



will be chosen to present a variety of opinions.

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To be considered for publication, letters must be exclusive to the Newsleader.

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374. Deadline is noon Monday. Letters must be 350 words or less.

Editorials, columns and letters present a viewpoint by advancing a well-reasoned argument. The most effective writing starts with established facts. You’re more likely to sway your audience (and get your letter published) if your writing is anchored in facts, not rumors, clear falsehoods or unsubstantiated accusations.

With the election season now underway, I hope readers will share their opinions about candidates and issues.

Your participation as a letter writer is one way to be part of civic life. Sharing your informed, reasoned opinion serves to focus the public debate and results in sound decision-making by elected officials.

I look forward to hearing from you.

to get involved. It often felt overwhelming being a part of so many activities and clubs, but it made my time at school so much richer and rewarding. You really gain a sense of all that is going on at the school, and build relationships with other students and teachers that last a lifetime.

It has been a long but rewarding road to get to this point, and I’m ready for the new path that now stretches before me. I would like to thank everyone who has helped get me to this point; my parents, teachers, friends and coaches. I really couldn’t have done it without you, and every little thing you did helped me so much.

As we move on to the next stage, I know the Class of 2018 is ready for whatever is ahead. From all of the students I’ve worked with, I know we are a determined and positive group of people, aware of the challenges ahead but resolving to face them with our best efforts and striving for success.

For all of the Class of 2018, be sure to enjoy this moment and remember all the memories made so far. It’s been an honor and a privilege to grow with all of you, and I know the future has great things in store as long as we work hard and keep going strong. Good luck and best wishes.

To be considered for publication, letters must be exclusive to the Newsleader.

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Trafficking

from front page

Beyond that we have to allow (the women) to get out of the life and educate the community so they don’t get into it,” Kendall said.

The recent arrest of a Waite Park massage parlor owner accused of trafficking and promoting prostitution prompted several questions from city leaders about ordinances.

Bentrud suggested tougher licensing standards for massage parlors but urged

officials to adopt the laws across all jurisdictions. If one city passes a tougher ordinance, that will just push the problem to neighboring cities, he said.

Kendall and Bentrud said they want to speak to schools to alert teachers, administrators and staff on how to recognize victims and buyers. They’d also like to reach students and they asked the elected officials to encourage school board members to let



Bentrud

them in the schools. “We need to be talking to our kids,” Bentrud said. “We have sex acts occurring in our area high schools for money. We need the support of the school boards to get this message out to kids.”

The task force received a \$313,000, two-year state grant to pay for investigators and a data analyst, but long-term funding is a challenge, Bentrud said.

In addition to investigation and education, Bentrud said a transitional housing facility would help get victims out of “the life” and back into society by providing sta-

ble housing, workforce training and legal aid.

“Sustainability for our task force is our near-term challenge,” Bentrud said.

Kendall’s formal presentation included a video with victims telling their stories as well as police and prosecutors talking about the issue. She also shared materials that help people identify sex trafficking. The materials stress prevention and intervention.

Victims feel insecure and



Kendall

unappreciated and lack relationships, are runaways or homeless, have been abused – young people in search of belonging, Kendall said.

Buyers are typically white men between 35-60, most are married with children and middle-class jobs. Men arrange for the sex acts during the noon hour or on the way to or from work.

Kendall distributed detailed lists of “red flags” to help spot traffickers and suspicious actions.

“People are being bought and sold,”Kendall said. “If you see something say something. Dial 911.”

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, June 1
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Monday, June 4
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, First Central Ave. S., St. Stephen.

Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-7 p.m., St. Francis Xavier Church, 308 Second St. N. 800-733-2767.

Market Monday, 3-6 p.m., parking lot of Coborn’s Market Place, 1725 Pinecone Road S., Sartell, marketmonday.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, June 5
Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-7 p.m., Atonement Lutheran Church 1144 29th Ave. N., St. Cloud. 800-733-2767.

Wednesday, June 6
St. Stephen City Council, 6:30 p.m., St. Stephen City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave SE.

Thursday, June 7
Coffee and Conversation featuring J.C. from Minnesota Electronics on “How to Watch TV without Cable,” a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

Sauk Rapids Farmers’ Market, 4-6:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 2163 Mayhew Lake Road NE., Sauk Rapids.

Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-252-8452.

Friday, June 8
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Saturday, June 9
Sartell SummerFest Liberty Bank Parade, 10 a.m., Riverside Avenue from Sartell Street to Seventh

Street N. completing the route at Sartell Middle School.

Libertyville, hosted by Liberty Bank Minnesota, noon-3 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. SartellSummerFest.com.

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

Sartell Hospitality & Visitors Service Bike Safety Rodeo hosted by the Sartell Police Department and Project BrainSafe, 1-3 p.m., Scout Drive near the Sartell Community Center. SartellSummerFest.com. 320-493-9297.

Great River Bowl & Partners Pub Street Dance, 5:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., 208 Second St. S., Sartell. SartellSummerFest.com.

Monday, June 11
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 p.m., parking lot of Coborn’s Market Place, 1725 Pinecone Road S., Sartell, marketmonday.org.

Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

320-253-2171.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 9, 6:30-8 p.m., VFW, 901 N. Benton Drive. Sauk Rapids. 320-492-9702.

Tuesday, June 12
Sartell Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Waters Church, 1227 Pinecone Road. 320-258.6061. info@sartellchamber.com.

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

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

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

Thursday, June 14
Coffee and Conversation tour of the St. John’s Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, meet at 8:15 a.m to carpool to Collegeville, Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

Sartell-Sauk Rapids Moms’ Club, 9-10:30 a.m., Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

Red Cross Blood Drive, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Country Inn & Suites, 235 Park Ave. S., St. Cloud. 800-733-2767.

Family Farmers’ Market, 2-6 p.m., River East parking lot, Centra-

Care Health Plaza, 1900 CentraCare Circle, St. Cloud. 320-252-2422.

Sauk Rapids Farmers’ Market, 4-6:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 2163 Mayhew Lake Road NE., 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.

St. Cloud Area Mothers of Multiples, 7 p.m., VFW Granite Post 428, 9 18th Ave. N., St. Cloud.

Friday, June 15
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

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

Saturday, June 16
Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell.

Quarry Park’s 20th Anniversary Celebration, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., rock climbing, park scavenger hunt, derrick demonstrations, historical re-enactment, mammal and wetland eduction, and an aquarium photo booth. 1802 CR 137, Waite Park. 320-255-6172.

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Hearing set for Celebration water problems

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A public hearing about proposed solutions to ongoing water problems in the Celebration neighborhood in north Sartell will take place at the June 11 Sartell City Council meeting.

The city council called for the public hearing at its May 14 meeting. The proposal for Celebration raised some concerns in the past, with some council members suggesting the neighborhood's original developer should perhaps bear the costs of fixing the water problems.

That issue surfaced also at the May 14 council meeting.

However, it was countered by April Ryan, water-resource engineer for Short Elliott Hendrickson, Sartell's contracted engineering firm. Ryan outlined the alternative solutions as to how the water problem could be resolved. She said the developer of Celebration neighborhood did, in fact, meet all city requirements when designing and building that neighborhood years ago.

Water build-up in parts of the neighborhood has caused many residents to use sump pumps to direct water away from their property, but unfortunately the water just builds up somewhere

else, especially in alleys. In cold weather some parts of the neighborhood resemble small skating rinks. The water problems have caused safety concerns.

Months ago, Sartell officials and engineers from SEH met with about 25 Celebration neighbors to get their input. As a result of that meeting, the engineers came up with the five alternative "fixes" that range in cost from \$373,000 to \$1,086,000. The fix most favored by engineers as cost-efficient and doable is dubbed "mill and overlay." It would involve installing drains in yards and drain tile under curbing

to facilitate water drainage and also redoing alleys so water flows freely where it's supposed to flow. A couple of the solution options, such as hooking up sump pumps directly to the storm-sewer system, are infeasible for a number of reasons, not the least of which is high cost.

The mill-and-overlay project would be the least expensive option, at \$373,000.

The solution, whichever is decided, will be paid for by the city but with assessments to property owners to help cover the costs. The mill-and-overlay solution would average about \$814 per homeowner, it was

noted. The city's portion of the cost could come from the street fund.

The mill-and-overlay method, if it's chosen, would also involve improvement of drainage at the intersection by Celebration-Pinecone Road N. and Seventh Street.

All Celebration neighbors are being encouraged to attend the June 11 public hearing to give their input. Once a solution is decided, the design process will begin and construction work would begin this fall. The Monday, June 11, council meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

Saint Stephen Steves playing .500 baseball at midseason

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Halfway through the amateur baseball regular season, the St. Stephen Steves are playing .500 ball in the Victory League after a recent three-game losing streak.



The most recent loss was an 11-2 defeat by the Avon Lakers on Memorial Day. The Steves' 3-3 record put them in third place in the Victory League South, trailing Avon and the Freeport Black Sox.

The Steves scored when Ben Omann doubled home Austin Guggenberger in the bottom of the fourth inning to make it 4-1. Omann singled in Guggenberger in the

bottom of the sixth inning for the Steves' other run.

The Steves have a chance for revenge when they play the Lakers Saturday, June 9, in Avon. The game was postponed from April 22.

The team started the season with three wins over Opole, St. Wendel and Roy-alton.

The schedule for the rest of the regular season is as follows:

Saturday, June 9, at Avon Lakers, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 10, home vs. Pierz Brewers, 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 13, at Pierz Bulldogs, 7 p.m.

Sunday, June 17, home vs. Opole Bears, 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 24, at Buckman Billygoats, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 7, at St. Wendel Saints, 1:30 p.m.

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