

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Oct. 5, 2018
Volume 23, Issue 30
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Former Obama aide to speak at SJU

Former White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough will speak at the Eugene J. McCarthy Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15, at St. John's Abbey and University Church. McDonough graduated from SJU in 1992 and served as President Obama's chief of staff from 2013 to 2017. The event is free, but tickets are needed to attend. www.csbsju.edu/fine-arts/performances. Call the box office at 320-363-5777 for additional information.

Stearns auction to sell surplus items

Stearns County will hold a fall auction to sell seized and surplus property on Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Stearns County Public Works building, 455 28th Ave. S., Waite Park. Site opens at 8 a.m.; auction begins at 9:30 a.m. A list of auction items can be found at midwestauctions.com or auctiondigz.com and click on Benoit Auction Service.

Market Monday open til Oct. 15

Sartell Market Monday is open until Oct. 15. Come check out the last two outdoor markets of the season. Many great items still available including breads, squash, meat, eggs, apples, raspberries, potatoes, onions, pumpkins, canned goods and much more. We are open on Monday, Oct. 8 and Monday, Oct. 15 from 3-6 p.m. in Coborn's parking lot on Pinecone Road.

'Stop the Bleed' workshop scheduled Oct. 15 at Legion

A "Stop the Bleed" hands-on workshop, sponsored by St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club and CentraCare, is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15 at the American Legion, St. Joseph. Contact Bernie Imholte for more information and details at 320-363-4728 or 320-291-2216. The workshop is free to all attendees.

Pumpkinfest set Oct. 19 at Lake George

Join us for the annual Pumpkinfest from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19 at Lake George in St. Cloud. The spine-tingling event for children ages 12 and under and their families includes trick-or-treat stations, petting zoo, pumpkin patch, face painting, hayrides and so much more. New this year: get lost in the hay maze or bust a move at the scream-in' dance party on the mainstage with DJ Monster Bash Mash. Fun is lurking around every corner during this FREE, safe, family-friendly event!

Dollars, cents and the operational levy

by Dave DeMars
news@thenewsleaders.com

"What we want is for people to get as informed as they can be, and then to make an informed decision," said Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert when talking about the upcoming Levy for Learning. The Levy for Learning is basically another name for an operational levy to allow the district to keep buildings in operation.

"Our position is to get as much information as possible into the hands of the public so they know what is going on and can make a decision as to what they want us to do," Schwiebert added. Getting the word out is crucial and that is why the district scheduled information meetings for the

public.

Schwiebert has made one presentation to the St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce already with another coming up shortly. To stir the enthusiasm pot the district held public tours of the new high school during September. The reaction has been favorable, Schwiebert said. Each tour has hosted about 50 people and the most common statement by far has simply been "Wow!"

Asked whether there had been any resistance thus far, Schwiebert said he would be the last one who should be asked that question. Being optimistic, he is all about explaining to people why there is a need for the levy. With five presentations under his

Levy • page 11

Candidate Everett promises 'Civility in Action'

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Heidi Everett of St. Wendel Township, a candidate for Minnesota House District 13B, intends to put her decades of communications skills to good use if elected Nov. 6.



Everett

She is a professor of communications and journalism at Minnesota State University, Moorhead.

Everett has lived on a hobby farm in St. Wendel Township for 14 years with her husband,

Everett • page 6

Everett, a DFLer, is challenging incumbent Rep. Tim O'Driscoll (R-Sartell) for the legislative seat.

District 13B includes Sartell, St. Stephen, Sauk Rapids, Holdingford and the townships of Avon, Brockway, Holding, Le Sauk, Minden, Sauk Rapids and St. Wendel.

Everett's campaign motto is Civility in Action, a phrase that encapsulates her belief that people of varying political persuasions can work together for the benefit of all.

Everett has lived on a hobby farm in St. Wendel Township for 14 years with her husband,

There's no place like Homecoming



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Sartell homecoming royalty Carlie Hansen and Mo Alkhatib drive a golf cart and wave to onlookers at the Sept. 21 Homecoming Parade.

If re-elected, O'Driscoll plans to build on successes

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Long-time Minnesota Rep. Tim O'Driscoll (R-Sartell) is hoping for another go-round for his fifth consecutive bid to represent the people in House District 13B in the state legislature.



O'Driscoll

O'Driscoll, 54, was elected to that position four times, every

two years, since his first try in 2010. O'Driscoll, a former real-estate agent, is a corporate trainer for Kaplan Professional Schools. Headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Kaplan Inc. provides educational services to colleges, universities, corporations and businesses, including programming, training, testing and certification.

O'Driscoll's challenger for the 13B House seat is Heidi Everett of St. Wendel Township.

District 13B includes Sartell, St. Stephen, Sauk Rapids, Holdingford and the townships of Avon, Brockway, Holding, Le

O'Driscoll • page 5

DeZURIK opens plant to public for 90th birthday

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

New York City would likely be a big, leaky, soggy mess of a city if it were not for the DeZURIK company in Sartell.

That's because DeZURIK manufactured to precise specifications all the valves that are used in the Big Apple's water-distribution system.

That is one of the intriguing fun facts visitors learned when DeZURIK opened its plant to the public Sept. 22 for its 90th birthday party.

The big public turnout astonished DeZURIK employees. At least 1,750 people lined up for tours at the plant from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. And that was a conservative number, said a company spokesman, because many on the tour did not sign the registration sheets. Each tour group ranged in size from 30 to 50 people. The wide-eyed visitors, including many children, gaped at the giant valves in the plant, one of them 12 feet wide. And many in the tour groups remarked with awe in their voices the sheer size of the De-

DeZurik • page 5



photo by Dennis Dalman

Visitors await the start of a tour of the DeZURIK plant in Sartell during its 90th birthday party at a public opening Sept. 22.

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, Oct. 5

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

Post polio support group, 10:30 a.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids.

Saturday, Oct. 6

Craft fair, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., St. John's Catholic Church, Swanville.

Celebrate the 111th anniversary of Sartell's founding, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. 10 a.m.-noon, children's games; 12:30-2 p.m., Riverside Jazz Band; 1, 2 and 3 p.m. historical trolley tours. Register for tours at 253-4036 doyscher-domres@sartell.k12.mn.us.

Craft-vendor sale, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park.

Metro Bus-service-changes open house, replacing Route 32 with on-demand service, 3-5 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. ridemetobus.com.

Sunday, Oct. 7

Coin Expo, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuscan Center, Midtown Square, Mall, 3333 Division St., St. Cloud.

Monday, Oct. 8

Lunch and cards, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-3 p.m., Rusty Nail, 4 CR 2 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.

Metro Bus route changes, replacing Route 32 with on-demand service, immediately follow the 6 p.m. Sartell City Council meeting, City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

St. Joseph Planning Commission, 6 p.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

Tuesday, Oct. 9

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

"The Plummer Boys: Five Brothers in the Civil War," a Central Minnesota Civil War Roundtable, 3 p.m. Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud.

Conversation on Race, 5-8:30 p.m., River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud. Presented by Create CommUNITY, a community initiative of organizations, businesses, schools and individuals. The event is free and open to all. **Register by Oct. 5** at: www.Createcommuity.info

Meet candidates Jeff Howe and Tim O'Driscoll, 6 p.m., Le Sauk Township Hall, 220 Fourth Ave. S., Sartell.

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.

Wednesday, Oct. 10

Breakfast Club, John Thavis, author of "The Vatican Diaries" and "The Vatican Prophecies," immediately following the 8 a.m. Stearns History Museum annual meeting. 235 33rd Ave. S.

Sartell-St. Stephen school district levy meeting, 6:30 p.m., Sartell Middle School Hub,

Thursday, Oct. 11

Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Sartell mayor candidate forum.

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

Nordic walking, sponsored by Independent Lifestyles, 9 a.m., Lake George, St. Cloud. 320-529-9000.

Sauk Rapids Farmers' Market, 3-6 p.m., Coborn's parking lot, 110 First St. S., Sauk Rapids.

Open house, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Sartell Fire Department, 220 Fourth Ave. S.

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

Sartell High School play, "The Butler Did It," 7 p.m., Sartell High School auditorium, 748 Seventh St. N.

Friday, Oct. 12

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

Sartell High School play, "The Butler Did It," 7 p.m., Sartell High School auditorium, 748 Seventh St. N.

Saturday, Oct. 13

New Sartell high school tour, 10 a.m., park in the Oak Ridge Elementary School parking lot. Tour limited to adults.

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

Sartell High School play, "The Butler Did It," 2 p.m., Sartell High School auditorium, 748 Seventh St. N.

Sunday, Oct. 14

Collegetown Colors, 1-4 p.m., St. John's Abbey Arboretum. Walk a 3-mile loop on the arboretum's Chapel Trail while enjoying various activities and presenters along the way.

Monday, Oct. 15

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.

St. Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease Support Group, 1 to 2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids.

Market Monday, 3-6: p.m., parking lot of Coborn's Market Place, 1725 Pinecone Road S., Sartell. marketmonday.org.

St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 W Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

Band, choir and orchestra concert, 7:30 p.m., Sartell High School Fall Concert, high school gym, 748 Seventh St. N.

Stop the Bleed workshop, sponsored by the St. Joseph Rod And Gun Club and CertraCare, 7:30 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

Tuesday, Oct. 16

Memory Writers group develops topics and turns in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.

Community Lunch and Entertainment, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-2 p.m., St. Stephen Parish Hall, 103 CR 2 S. 320-746-9960.

St. Cloud Area Genealogists meeting, 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 17

Anna Marie's Alliance Breakfast, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Kelly Inn, 100 Fourth Ave. S., St. Cloud. Call 320-251-7203 for reservations by Friday, Oct. 12.

Free immigration services, 9 a.m.-noon, Community Outpost, 600

13th St. S., St. Cloud.

SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S., Sartell.

Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.

Sartell-St. Stephen school board work session, 7-8 p.m. 212 Third Ave. N., Sartell.

Thursday, Oct. 18

Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Sartell City Council candidate forum.

Nordic walking, sponsored by Independent Lifestyles, 9 a.m., Lake George St. Cloud. 320-529-9000.

Sauk Rapids Farmers' Market, 3-6 p.m., Coborn's parking lot, 110 First St. S., Sauk Rapids.

American Legion-Sartell, open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Liquid Assets, 1091 Second St. S. #600, Sartell. john.denney@charter.net.

Candidate forum for Senate 13 and House District 13A, sponsored by the League of Women Voters. 7-8:30 p.m., Avon City Hall, 140 Stratford St. E., Avon.

Friday, Oct. 19

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, Oct. 20

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

Halloween Historia, 12:30-3:30 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. Nominal fee.



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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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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.

Sept. 19

1:20 p.m. Traffic violation. Riverside Avenue. An officer stopped a vehicle speeding on Riverside Avenue. The driver admitted to the officer he was speeding and could not provide current proof of insurance. The officer issued a citation to the driver.

Sept. 20

9:45 p.m. Collision. CR 120. Officers responded to a vehicle accident involving a bicycle. Officers discussed the situation with the owner of the vehicle who claimed she struck a person on a bicycle. The individual on the bicycle left after the collision. The driver wished for officers to check on the bicyclist's well-being. Officers caught up with the victim on the bicycle. He stated he had a small scrape on his hand from the accident but did not wish for any medical attention.

Sept. 21

11:30 a.m. Theft. CR 120. An officer was called to a store on CR 120 for an employee stealing money from the cash register. The officer met a manager who told the officer the individual

had admitted to taking money from cash registers for more than a month. The officer arrested the person, who could be charged with felony theft. The employee was taken to Stearns County Jail.

Sept. 22

1:30 a.m. Curfew violation. 13th Avenue N. A homeowner reported his doorbell had been rung multiple times. The homeowner suspected juveniles. Officers using a thermal imaging camera spotted the juveniles leaving the area. The officers caught the individuals and transported them home where they all were cited for curfew violations.

Sept. 24

2 p.m. Failure to stop for a bus. Pinecone Road N. An officer received a complaint of a vehicle failing to stop for a school bus that had its stop arm out. The driver of the bus recorded the vehicle information and notified law enforcement. Officers contacted the owner of the vehicle and the driver admitted to seeing the bus with the stop arm out. After briefly stopping, the driver stated they continued on their way. The officer advised them they would receive a citation in the mail.

Sept. 25

11:30 a.m. Burning. 19th Avenue S. An officer witnessed a large column of black smoke rising from behind a residence. Officers witnessed large flames and stopped to investigate. The owner had a burn permit for the previous evening and had placed a daybed on the burning

area that morning. The officer advised the owner burning furniture was not allowed and issued a warning.

Sept. 27

2:45 p.m. Vandalism. Victory Avenue. Officers were called to a residence where a person had a hole drilled in the gas tank of their vehicle and fuel was stolen. When the vehicle was towed to the repair shop they informed the person that multiple vehicles had been recently brought in with the same issue. Officers were requested to complete extra patrols of the area.

Sept. 28

11:30 a.m. Possession. An officer was informed that a juvenile was in possession of what was believed to be marijuana.

When the juvenile was confronted, the juvenile admitted possession of the marijuana. The juvenile turned the marijuana over to the officer. The officer contacted the juvenile's parents.

Sept. 29

7:45 p.m. Warrant. CR 120. An officer contacted a suspicious person. The individual identified himself to the officer. The individual had a warrant for his arrest. When informed of his warrant, the individual attempted to flee from the officer but was apprehended. The individual was transported to Stearns County Jail.

Oct. 1

12:50 a.m. Assault. CR 120. Officers were called about two

individuals fighting. One of the individuals was witnessed to being hit by a bat. The victim, when identified, was found to have a felony warrant for his arrest. He was transported to the hospital for his injuries then to Stearns County Jail for the warrant. The second individual fled requiring St Cloud's drone and K9. Individual was apprehended and transported to Stearns County Jail on assault and reckless driving.

Oct. 2

11 a.m. Theft. Twin Rivers Court. A business reported one of their vehicles was out of fuel. Video was reviewed. It is shown on camera an individual siphoning the fuel out of the vehicle. Officers are investigating.



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CRAFT-VENDOR SALES
Saturday, Oct. 6
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
American Legion - Waite Park
17 Second Avenue North

CNA POSITION
Saint John's Abbey invites applications for a part-time, benefit-eligible position, three days per week, in the Abbey Retirement Center.
NIGHT SHIFT 11-7
APPLY ONLINE ONLY AT:
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS
 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 748
 (SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN)
 STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 748, Sartell-St. Stephen, State of Minnesota, in conjunction with the state general election, the 6th day of November, 2018, for the purpose of electing three school board members for four-year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
 VOTE FOR UP TO THREE

- Jeremy Snoberger
- Taryn Gentile
- Amanda Byrd
- Patrick Marabini
- Melinda Vonderahe
- write-in, if any
- write-in, if any
- write-in, if any

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 748
 (SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN)
 STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in conjunction with the state general election in and for Independent School District No. 748 (Sartell-St. Stephen), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018, for the purpose of voting on the following question:

School District Question 1
 Revoking Existing Referendum Revenue
 Authorization; Approving New Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 748 (Sartell-St. Stephen) has proposed to revoke the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$324.83 per pupil and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$760.00 per pupil. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for 10 years, beginning with taxes payable in 2019, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

- Yes** Shall the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization be revoked and the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 748 be approved?
- No**

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY-TAX INCREASE.

The precincts and the polling places for these general and special elections are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district, which have been established by the cities, town or townships located in whole or in part within the school district. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as those for the state general election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on election day.

Dated: Oct. 5 & 19, 2018

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
 /s/ Pamela Raden
 School District Clerk

Publish: Oct. 5 & 19, 2018

People

Board-certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon **Dr. Jennifer Harrington**, director of plastic surgery at **Harrington**



North Memorial Medical Center Level 1 Trauma Center and adjunct professor at University of Minnesota, recently became the MedSpa Medical Director at The Vein Center Laser Treatment & MedSpa in Sartell.

Harrington received her bachelor's degree from University of California-Riverside. She attended medical school at Loma Linda University School of Medicine and completed her residency at Mayo Clinic in Rochester and fellowship at University of Minnesota. In 2000, Harrington opened Harrington + Associates offering reconstructive plastic surgery and soft aesthetics treatments. As a nationally recognized trauma healthcare specialist she has traveled to Africa, Guatemala and Peru to reconstruct and correct deformities on under-

privileged children. Harrington earned a worldwide reputation for excellence when she reattached the arms of a two-year old boy following a devastating accident.

Molly Fossen, a 2018 Sartell-St. Stephen graduate, was the 2017-2018 Minnesota Positive High School Athlete Winner for girls golf. She was honored at the Minnesota Twins Game on June 20. She will be attending the University of South Dakota to play on the golf team and major in nursing.

Rachel Schatz of Sartell has been accepted for admission to Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, for the 2019-20 academic year. Schatz has been awarded the Founders Scholarship.

The University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences announced \$630,000 in awards and scholarships to 110 UND medical students for the 2018-2019 academic year. **Natalie McIntire** of Sartell received the Lucille M. Radke Fostvedt MD Memorial Scholarship.

Stearns Electric Association's recently retired CEO **Dave Gruenes** was recently honored for his 19 years of service to the cooperative and its members.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's CEO Jim Matheson presented **David Gruenes** with the NRECA



Regional Award for Outstanding Service on Sept. 18 during the group's meeting in Minneapolis.

The award is presented to individuals who have a proven record of promoting cooperative values and working tirelessly to serve members. Gruenes' leadership at the utility in the areas of demand-side management, economic development and member-empowerment were cited as a few of the many reasons he was bestowed this honor.

Fire department open house slated for Oct. 11

The perennially popular Sartell Fire Department Open House will take place from 4:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 11, at the fire department lot next to the police station.

There will also be at least one police officer and squad car at the event for children visitors

to crawl around in.

October is National Fire Prevention Month. The open house is a chance for residents to honor firefighters, to get to know them on a one-to-one basis, to learn fire-safety tips and for children to become aware of fire safety.

The Sartell Fire Department, which also serves Le Sauk Township and other areas when mutual-aid calls are invoked, does more than extinguish house fires. Its volunteer members also respond to building and vehicle fires, water rescues and medical emergencies.

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DeZurik

from front page

ZURIK plant – more than 400,000 square feet. Some commented to tour guides they had driven past the place for years and never had any inkling DeZURIK was so big.

Visitors were treated to complimentary snacks and a free lunch.

These days, DeZURIK operates under the formal name of DeZURIK-APCO-HILTON (two of its partner firms, along with one named Willamette).

Matt DeZurik

Each tour began with a verbal presentation and slide show by Scott Crane, DeZURIK's chief financial officer. The company was founded in 1928 by Matt DeZurik of Sartell, a self-styled genius of a tinkerer and born inventor who worked for the Sartell St. Regis Paper Mill at that time. The paper mill

was desperately in need of some sort of valve to regulate the flow of wood-pulp-and-water slurry vital for paper production. DeZurik decided to invent a valve just for that purpose. After tinkering in his garage, what he came up with revolutionized paper production, and that valve and its variations are still used nearly 100 years later in the paper-making industry. DeZurik then opened his own business in a brick building of only 2,400 square feet that still remains on the current DeZURIK site. Matt DeZurik was head of the company for about two decades. The company he founded became, along with the paper mill, one of the economic bedrocks of Sartell and remains so today even though the paper mill shut down after an explosion and death.

In 1944, DeZurik's company stopped manufacturing valves for a time because of the pressing needs of World War II and instead made a lot of parts for army combat tanks.

Now locally owned

A series of acquisitions occurred starting in 1968 when Colorado Interstate acquired DeZURIK; in 1972 the plant was acquired by General Signal Corp.; in 2004 by SPX; and 14 years ago, the local Granite Equity Partners acquired the company. Granite Equity is a group of about a dozen local investment families well known as the owners of many large companies, such as Coborn's, Ferche Millwork, Spee Dee Delivery, Viking Coca Cola and others. Granite Equity has ensured the company remains under local control. DeZURIK, 100 percent locally owned, is expected to have \$200 million in annual sales by the end of 2018.

In 2011 and 2012, DeZURIK acquired the valve companies of APCO, Hilton and Willamette. There are four manufacturing plants in North America, with Sartell the biggest of them. The others are in Redmond, Wash., Houston, Texas, and Cambridge, Ont.

DeZURIK makes its sales via a worldwide network of independent representatives with a service center located in Marietta, Ga.

Quality employees

During his talk, Crane said the most important factor in the company's success is and always has been its quality employees – in all areas of production, from design to shipping and handling, to welding. Employees are encouraged to connect with the larger community, and all volunteer for good causes such as United Way, YMCA, St. Cloud State University and the annual "Day of Caring" in the greater St. Cloud area.

DeZURIK can manufacture 120,000 valves annually, ranging in size from one-half inch to 12-foot wide and some weighing as much as 40 tons.

3-D prototypes

One of the informational stops on the tour was the engineering test lab where employee Craig Pundsack explained how valves are designed and then prototypes of them are made in two 3-D printing machines. The prototypes are then analyzed, fine-tuned, tested and pondered over by experts in all areas of the design and production. That way, Pundsack said, any kinks or flaws can be worked out before production begins, which he said is the surest way to ensure quality products and to prevent having to start the process all over again, from scratch, which would be a waste of money and time.

DeZURIK's biggest sales are in valves for water and waste-water-treatment systems. Other kinds of valves are made for power plants, pulp and paper productions, mining operations, and refining and chemical processes.



photos by Dennis Dalman

These valves, each about four-feet high, were on display during a public tour of the DeZURIK plant in Sartell Sept. 22.

O'Driscoll

from front page

Sauk, Minden, Sauk Rapids and St. Wendel.

Raised in Sartell, O'Driscoll graduated from Sartell High School and then earned a bachelor's degree from St. Cloud State University in business education, office administration and real-estate planning and development.

O'Driscoll served as a member of the Sartell City Council from 1993 to 1995 and again from 2002 to 2006, and from 2007-2011, he served as the city's mayor.

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

Cloud Area Joint Planning District.

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

His other jobs have included training manager for PrimeVest Financial Services (2000-2009); educational trainer for ProSource Educational Services (1994-2000); instructor at St. Cloud Business College (1988-1994) and real-estate agent (1983-2005).

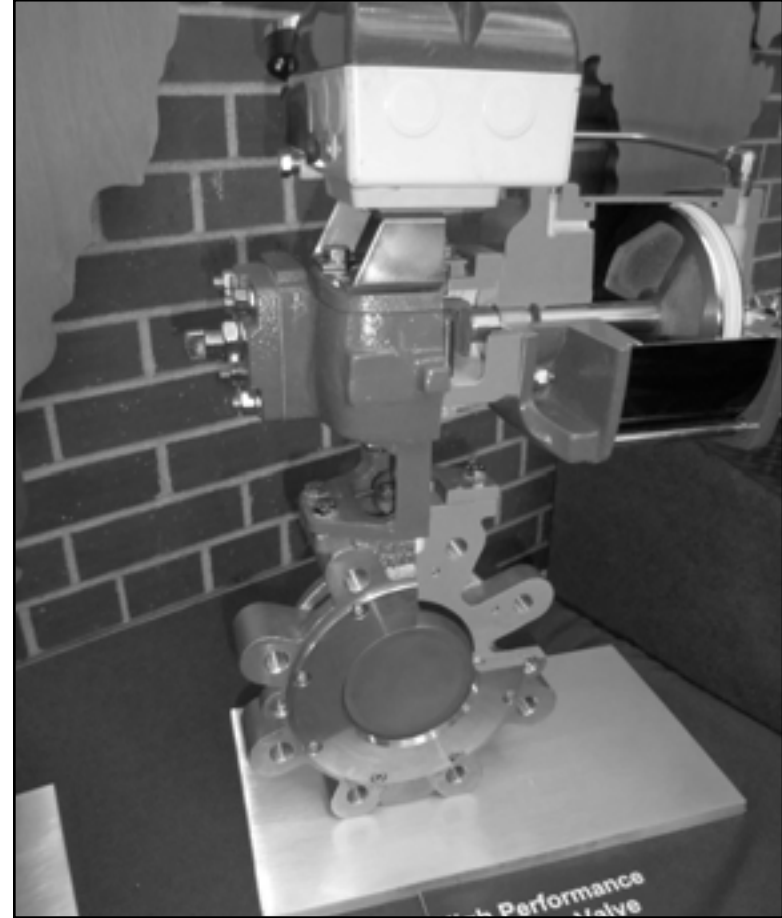
Among his committee assignments at the Minnesota House are those involving commerce and regulatory reform, government finance, government operations and elections, capital investment, veterans' affairs, workplace safety and rules, and legislation administration. He has also served as Pro Tem of the House.

O'Driscoll has been honored many times for his work on behalf of veterans. He is a leader

in the Central Minnesota Warrior to Citizen and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon community initiatives.

O'Driscoll said he is very proud of his work in ensuring the success of legislative accomplishments in the 2017-2018 legislative session. Among them, he listed the Pension Reform and Stabilization bill (authored by O'Driscoll), a historic level of multi-billion funding for roads and bridges for a 10-year period without raising taxes; \$1.4 billion in tax relief to Minnesotans; a law that lowers health-care insurance costs and that increases options for those who have experienced three years of double-digit premium increases that O'Driscoll said were caused by the Affordable Care Act, and an increase of \$1.3 billion for public schools and \$25 million to assist schools to institute safety measures.

O'Driscoll outlined the issues he plans to work on if re-elected:



This valve is known as a high-performance butterfly valve, one of the many valves which was on display for the public during tours of the facility Sept. 22.

- Taxes: He supports tax relief for parents saving for their children's post-secondary education and tax relief for post-secondary graduates who are paying back student loans.

- A statewide property tax for owners of commercial and industrial real estate, O'Driscoll said, is jeopardizing jobs. A reduction, he added, would improve the economic vitality of the whole state.

- Transportation: Traffic increases require more roads and bridges, O'Driscoll said, and aging infrastructure needs fixes and upgrades. Funding could be acquired by gradually moving the sales taxes from vehicle sales and repairs and dedicating those funds to road and bridge projects, O'Driscoll said he believes.

- Job creation: O'Driscoll said creating a more business-friendly environment in Minnesota would attract more employers to the

state. That could be effected by keeping regulatory requirements in check and a streamlining of permit processes, thus, in turn, creating more and better jobs, he added.

- Education: There is still work to be done and progress to be made on increasing funding for K-12 education, O'Driscoll said. Currently, he noted, the education-funding formulas favor schools in the Twin Cities area over those of greater Minnesota. That funding process must be made more equitable, O'Driscoll argues.

- Veterans: O'Driscoll said he will continue his work on behalf of veterans, adding to the many pro-veteran bills he has authored that have become laws.

The salary for legislators is \$45,000 annually, with a \$66 per diem rate.

O'Driscoll's campaign website is odriscollforhouse.com.

There's no place like Homecoming



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

The Sartell Dance Team performs during the Sept. 21 Homecoming Parade. Members include (from left to right) Lexi Rudnitski, Ava Scheffler, Reese Schwarzen-
traub, Amber Teer, Olivia Plamann, Kaylee Ringstad, Izzy Kucala and Juliana Reitz along with the many of the rest of the team (further back).

RSVP asks for increased Sartell funding

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

At the last Sartell City Council meeting, the director of the Greater St. Cloud Area RSVP requested the Sartell City Council to increase funds for the all-volunteer program.

RSVP stands for Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Its director, Lisa Braun, spoke to the council during the open forum

period during which speakers can address the council with concerns before council members begin the official meeting.

Up until 2012, Sartell contributed about \$9,500 annually to RSVP, Braun noted, adding that after that year that amount has been reduced by about 50 percent. In the meantime, RSVP spends about \$3,000 annually to provide volunteer services to Sartell, Braun said.

Braun said she has been with RSVP for 32 years. The agency is part of the National Senior Forum and does receive some state and federal grant funding.

There are 94 senior citizens who live in Sartell and who participate as volunteers through RSVP, Braun noted. Total volunteer hours to Sartell last year were about 10,000 hours. Besides many other ar-

eas of volunteerism in the city, nine volunteers helped with functions of the Sartell Police Department and one helped in duties at city administration.

"Please consider increasing funding," Braun said to the council.

The council did not address Braun's request because, under the rules, council members cannot discuss subjects brought up during open forum at the same

meeting the open forum session takes place, although they can consider open forum concerns at subsequent meetings.

RSVP, based at St. Cloud's Whitney Senior Center, provides volunteerism in the three-county area: Stearns, Benton, Sherburne. Last year, there were 1,184 volunteers working for a total of 14,000 hours, Braun said.

Everett

from front page

Emil Towner (business communications professor) and their four children ages 10-24.

Born and raised in Ramsey, she endured poverty and other hard times as a girl, but – looking back – she has come to view those early struggles as forming her current passions and forging true-grit determination.

"I was committed to working hard to make my life better," she said. "Babysitting at an early age enabled me to buy a bike. With that bike, I could work more by biking to clean people's houses. When I was old enough to be hired, I biked to my job at the video store until I could save to buy a car."

After graduating from Anoka High School, Everett moved to Central Minnesota for college and to raise her family. For many years, Everett served as managing director of content and editorial functions for a technology company.

Everett also later faced the roller-coaster rigors of the business world.

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

She and her family then started a business, which exceeded expectations for two years – until the 2008 recession hit hard. The family had to close shop.

"We were humbled by depleted savings and nonexistent credit, but we tightened our budget, cobbled together a variety of jobs and survived the recession," she said.

For 25 years, Everett taught writing courses at St. Cloud Technical & Community College and has been an adjunct professor at St. Cloud State University. Throughout her career, she nurtured networking connections among students, faculty, businesses, nonprofit agencies and

virtually every kind of organization in the area.

Her work includes three years of service as president of the St. Joseph Kennedy Community School PTA, three years on the Local Education and Activities Foundation, four years on the Brian Klinefleter Memorial Foundation and eight years on the Central Minnesota Advertising Federation. In addition, she has done fundraising work for St. Cloud Technical & Community College and the College of St. Benedict.

Early in her career, she was an advertising copywriter for Herberger's, St. Cloud, and then worked for Creative Memories in communications, marketing, engineering and development.

Everett earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in English from St. Cloud State University, as well as a doctorate in technical communication and rhetoric from Texas Tech University.

Among Everett's campaign platform is the following:

- Better wages: "I believe families should thrive and not simply survive. Paycheck to paycheck is

not the way to go through life. Minnesota families need a livable wage for skilled work, access to affordable health care and the financial security to ensure an abundance of healthy food on the table and a stable roof overhead."

- Health care: "A single-payer health-care system (sometimes dubbed 'Medicare for All') ensures all Minnesotans get the care they need when they need it. Plus, it ensures individuals and families will no longer have to gamble on their health with the complicated plans currently available or low-cost/high-deductible plans. A single-payer system is the prescription for success in Minnesota and an opportunity to demonstrate real leadership in health care."

- Reproductive health: "A woman's health care continues to be under attack. I'm committed to defending women's reproductive health-care rights."

- Clean water: Everett calls for funding to protect rivers, streams, lakes; to ensure safety of drinking water systems; preventing runoff and pollution to waterways.

- Gun safety: "I believe in-

dividuals have the right to bear arms; in fact, I have a gun range in my basement . . . What is unreasonable is the notion that an individual has the right to own a military-grade weapon . . . that gives the power to mow down a crowd of innocent people in a matter of seconds." Everett is in favor of background checks for all private and personal sales or transfers, banning assault-style rifles, high-capacity magazines and longer waiting periods.

- Union membership, right to work: Everett is in favor of unions and dues that would promote worker safety, encourage better wages and benefit packages.

The salary for legislators is \$45,000 annually, with a \$66 per diem rate.

Heidi Everett's campaign website is heidimn13b.com.

**Stories only on
thenewsleaders.com**

- Sartell man injured in motorcycle crash
- Train collides with apparently stolen U-Haul truck in Sartell
- Forum focuses on more passenger-train service

Holiday Cooking Safety

Holidays are a wonderful reason for loved ones to gather over a home-cooked meal. Unfortunately, these events invite the threat of fire. Whether you are cooking inside or outdoors, it's important to do so with care.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency urges Americans to practice safety measures when preparing holiday feasts.

INDOOR SAFETY

When cooking inside, it is crucial to be aware of your surroundings. FEMA urges us to keep anything that can catch fire away from the stove top. Preparing large meals for the holidays invites chances of potholders, oven mitts, food packaging or paper towels to be lit when too close to burners. Never leave the room while you are cooking on the stove.

If you must bring in additional cooking appliances to complete your feast, never plug them in with extension cords. Most are not rated to run microwaves and other cooking appliances and can overload a circuit, resulting in fire.

Consider hiring an electrician to install more outlets in your kitchen if you regularly need more. The task is typically simple and affordable, but should be trusted to a professional.

OUTDOOR SAFETY

A growing trend in America is serving deep-fried turkey for a Thanksgiving feast. Fryers are one of the common reasons fire departments are called on



© ADOBE STOCK

Thanksgiving. If you plan to prepare your meal using this type of equipment, consider these safety tips from the United States Fire

Administration.

- Make sure your turkey is completely thawed, even a partially frozen bird causes hot oil to splatter.

- Monitor the temperature of your fryer's oil to prevent overheating and risk of fire.

- Only use your equipment on a level and sturdy surface

as they can easily tip over. Instill a three-foot rule and make sure children and pets keep a distance from your cooking area.

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Crever and Oppel help a senior citizen inside at Peace United Church of Christ. The meetings are held in the basement of the church, accessible by a handicapped ramp on the outside and an elevator on the inside.

Informative Medicare meetings to help transition to new plans

When it comes to Medicare, you have choices. Laurie Oppel and Jackie Crever, licensed agents in the state of Minnesota, are ready to help. Their goal is to help you understand and get the most out of your Medicare benefits. Their office is located in St. Joseph.

If you or a loved one is getting ready to enroll in Medicare this year, you have a lot to consider.

No matter your situation, Laurie and Jackie can help you get answers to your Medicare questions. Questions to think about: How's your current health? Do you take any prescription drugs? Do you have a preferred doctor, hospital or clinic? Are you on a

fixed budget or do you expect changes to your finances in the coming year? Are benefits like vision, hearing or dental important to you? Do you have plans to travel for an extended period? Do you have any wellness goals you want to achieve?

You can explore your Medicare plan options and learn how Medicare works at the meetings that Laurie and Jackie will host at Peace United Church of Christ (402 Eighth Ave. S., St. Cloud). The meetings will be held at a variety of times and dates throughout October and November. Please see the meeting schedule below.

These meetings will have a UCare sales person present with informa-

tion and applications. The church is handicapped-accessible with both a ramp from the outside and an elevator on the inside. The meetings will take place on the lower level of the church. Please park on the street or in the parking lot on the back side of the church.

Meetings are open to the public. Please RSVP to either Laurie or Jackie to let them know which date fits your schedule best. You can also schedule a complimentary appointment today. Both Laurie and Jackie can provide this personalized service in the comfort of your own home or at their office in St. Joseph at no cost to you.



Jackie Crever and Laurie Oppel prepare for their meetings at Peace United Church of Christ.

Explore Your Medicare Plan Options Come to a free informative meeting.

Schedule of Meetings

Location

Peace United Church of Christ
402 8th Ave. S
St. Cloud, MN 56301

October

10-8, 10 a.m.
10-10, 1 p.m.
10-16, 10 a.m.
10-18, 3 p.m.
10-22, 1 p.m.
10-26, 10 a.m.
10-30, 3 p.m.

November

11-1, 3 p.m.
11-5, 10 a.m.
11-7, 1 p.m.
11-13, 10 a.m.
11-15, 3 p.m.
11-19, 1 p.m.
11-20, 10 p.m.
11-27, 3 p.m.
11-29, 1 p.m.

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For accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings call 320-296-9660 or 218-343-4702, TTY users call 711.
Authorized independent agent/agency for UCare Minnesota and UCare Health Inc.

December will be by appointment

Please RSVP for a meeting time that works with your schedule by calling: Laurie Oppel 218-343-4702 or Jackie Crever 320-293-9660

Not connected with or endorsed by the United States government or the federal Medicare program.

Questions to think about

How's your current health?

Do you take any prescription drugs?

Do you have a preferred doctor, hospital or clinic?

Are you on a fixed budget or do you expect changes to your finances in the coming year?

Are benefits like vision, hearing or dental important to you?

Do you have plans to travel?

Do you have any wellness goals you want to achieve?

Levy

from front page

belt and five more scheduled, Schwiebert said some people have forgotten the need for the levy was explained when the board proposed the new school.

“The feedback I’m getting is, ‘Did you talk about this before? Why didn’t we vote on this back in 2016?’ I remind folks we did talk about it at that time,” Schwiebert said. “We told folks we would come back for a levy when we actually need the money.”

When I remind them we did talk about it, they usually say something like, “Yeah, I do remember.”

Understanding the levy

Residents will vote Nov. 6 on a referendum that will increase funding from about \$324 per student each year to \$760. If approved, the \$435 increase will provide about \$17 million to \$18 million during the next 10 years.

If the referendum is approved the district will get a maximum number of dollars from the state to help fund education, and that is why we asked for the amount we did, Schwiebert explained. It’s called levy equalization. Of the \$760, taxpayers in Sartell will only pay a percentage of that amount with the state picking up the rest of the cost.

“When we talk about [state aid] it’s easy to get confused,” Schwiebert said. “There’s a

couple of different pots of money we are talking about.”

There is a foundation formula in Minnesota that puts about \$6,300 on the table for each student in the district. That money covers most of the general classroom costs, Schwiebert explained. Usually it’s referred to as the general fund.

The district can also go out and ask for a building levy and an operational levy. Some districts also ask for a technology levy which is used to fund upgrades in technology such as new computers, printers and other areas that rely heavily on technology. All of these levies rely on the property tax.

Voters passed the building levy when they OKd the building of the new high school, but until the new school is completed and operational, there is no need for funds to operate it. That is why the district said they would come back to the voters after com-

pletion for funds to operate and maintain the buildings in the district.

At present the district is operating its buildings on about \$324 per student. Upgrades and the addition of a building the size of the new high school will necessitate an increase in funding which amounts to about \$435 more per student for a total of \$760.

When the foundation money from the state (\$6,300) and the money from the property-tax building levy, and the operational levy (assuming it passes) are added together, it amounts to about \$9,300 per student. That will be the approximate cost of educating a child in Sartell in the coming years.

The state uses a three-tiered formula to determine how much funding they will provide. Part of that funding is based on the land value within the district. The various types of land – farm land,

forest land, developed commercial property and others – are all taxed at different rates depending on the value of it.

Right now, land value in the district has been determined to be about \$1.5 billion. That amount is divided by the number of students in the district (about 4,400). After applying the state’s formula, the amount contributed by each party is determined.

“We are a property-poor district,” Schwiebert said, “because the amount of dol-

lars behind each one of our kids is less than it would be in the vast majority of other districts across the state. We don’t have a lot of high-end industrial parks that help add value.”

Sartell does not have a lot of industry even though it does have a large residential population. A larger commercial base would probably help reduce the the cost to homeowners in the district, but it might also result in less state aid to the district.

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photo by Mike Knaak

Sheriff Don Gudmundson summarizes the Wetterling documents on Sept. 20.

Bungled Wetterling investigation went 'off the rails' from the start

by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleaders.com

The investigation of Jacob Wetterling's 1989 abduction and killing "went off the rails" from the beginning and the sheriff at the time, Charlie Grafft, lost control of his investigation to the FBI in the first few weeks.

That's the judgment of current Stearns County Sheriff Don Gudmundson. Before releasing more than 47,000 documents on Thursday, Sept. 20, Gudmundson presented a summary of the documents that in his view revealed 20 clues bungled by investigators that should have led them to Danny Heinrich.

On Sept. 6, 2016, Heinrich confessed to kidnapping and murdering Jacob Wetterling. Gudmundson asserted the clues that should have led investigators to Heinrich actually where there as far back as Jan. 13, 1989, nine months before Jacob's abduction on Oct. 22.

That's when a 12-year-old Cold Spring boy was kidnapped and sexually assaulted. In 2012, examination of DNA evidence from the boy's clothing ultimately connected the crime to Heinrich.

In the years between, the files reveal missed clues, turf battles and inexperience.

A report less than 48 hours after Jacob's abduction from a Paynesville victim to a task force deputy advises that eight abductions between 1986 and 1988 in Paynesville and Jacob's case were perpetrated by the same person because it was "quick, military and proficient."

"This tip was followed up on Jan. 5, 1990, more than two months after it was received. The young man's assessment was absolutely spot on," Gudmundson said in his presentation.

The files reveal a Dec. 16, 1989, teletype from the task force that the two abductions are believed to be the same.

"There are thousands of pages of unnecessary, redundant, detailed and ultimately meaningless reports about trivia like the kind of pizza ordered, mov-

ies watched or large amounts of toilet tissue ordered. The reports have been described as more detailed versions of who didn't do it. There was huge wastes of time and manpower particularly in the beginning. Essentially, there was a lot of manpower, but most of it was squandered," Gudmundson said.

"We also would say that you know your investigation is already off the rails when you are dealing with psychics Oct. 24, less than 48 hours after the abduction" Gudmundson said. "There was a lot of contact with psychics in the case. They are right about precisely nothing.

"Investigators are dealing with psychics before an excellent neighborhood canvas is ever done. There are also clairvoyants, tarot cards, Indian medicine men, witching rods, satanists, voodoo, witchcraft, hypnosis, premonitions, dreams and repressed memories reports in the file."

Meanwhile, real evidence goes nowhere.

On the morning after the abduction, Stearns County Investigator Steve Mund makes plaster casts of tire tracks and shoe prints from the crime scene. Three months later, while interviewing Heinrich, Mund concludes that casts of the tires and shoes match the tires on Heinrich's car and shoes.

On Jan. 12, 1990, Mund writes that a polygraph exam given to Heinrich by FBI agents registered deceptive answers to questions about the Cold Spring incident and Jacob.

When investigators ask the Cold Spring victim to view a lineup on Jan. 26, Gudmundson said the exercise was not well planned and should have included all the Paynesville victims as well as Aaron Larson and Trevor Wetterling. Lineup participants should also have asked to speak the words common in all the abductions. Heinrich was not picked out of the lineup by the Cold Spring boy.

On Feb. 9, Stearns officers arrest Heinrich at a bar in Roscoe. Gudmundson described

Heinrich's interrogation as a "fatal flaw."

"It's pretty hard to get a statement out of drunk people," Gudmundson said.

The files indicated agents from the FBI interrogated Heinrich and the interview was monitored by the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit. The records indicate the profilers didn't think Heinrich did the crimes.

"We regard the interrogation as the most fatal flaw in the Wetterling investigation. The BCA supplied their most experienced homicide special agents.... and up until April, they were running meaningless leads," Gudmundson said. "There was no one in the sheriff's office with extensive homicide investigation experience. The FBI are not trained homicide investigators."

The files show on Feb. 9, Stearns County Attorney Pat Strom orders Heinrich's release.

On the same day, more evidence linking Heinrich to the crime falls victim to an apparent turf battle.

According to the files, an FBI agent writes on a Stearns County Sheriff's Office supplemental report on Feb. 9, 1990. "The information provided to (FBI agent Al) Garber (the task force commander) was that the FBI lab had made a positive match between a fiber taken from the carpet of Danny Heinrich's former vehicle, a 1987 Mercury Topaz and a fiber found on the victim, the Cold Spring boy's snowmobile suit, and this writer was not to inform anyone in the Sheriff's Department about the match."

The thousands of files released by Stearns County leave gaps in the narrative because more than 12,500 FBI files have not been released.

There's no mention of Heinrich for almost 20 years.

On July 18, 2012, DNA evidence on the Cold Spring boy's snowmobile suit and sweatshirt link Heinrich to the crime.

The statute of limitations expired for the Cold Spring kidnapping, meaning Heinrich could not be arrested and charged with that crime. A

search of Heinrich's residence turned up child pornography and he was arrested on Oct. 28, 2015.

Heinrich decided to cooperate with authorities as part of a plea bargain and, on Sept. 1, 2016, led investigators to Jacob's burial site near Paynesville.

The Stearns officers involved in the initial investigation have died, retired or moved on. But Gudmundson said there are lessons to be learned from failures 30 years ago.

"We have assigned a permanent lieutenant to be in charge of investigations and ordered a detective to be at death scenes," Gudmundson said. "We also have extended them as detectives longer than four years. They were transferred out after a four-year period in the past."

Gudmundson, who was appointed sheriff in May 2017 after John Sanner retired before the end of his term, said he's directed his officers to look at the department's other cold cases.

"Read the reports. Read every bit," he said of records of unsolved crimes.

The investigators' defenders say the Wetterling case was so big the clues that lead to Heinrich were "like a whisper in the crowd," Gudmundson said. "(But) it should have been a persistent whisper in the crowd."

Gudmundson listed 20 reasons why Heinrich should have been the main suspect:

- He was in the military and wears camo around Paynesville. He lies and says he never does that.

- In the military, he would have learned to use mud or face paint to disguise himself.

- The Mercury Topaz used in the Cold Spring abduction matches the description given by the Cold Spring boy and the boy rates it an eight or nine out of 10 to be the car he was kidnapped in.

- A fiber found on the Cold Spring victim's snowmobile suit is consistent with fibers found in Heinrich's Mercury Topaz.

- The Sears Superguard Ra-

dials match tire prints left at the Wetterling scene. Suspects are most often eliminated precisely because they do not have the tires. He has the tires.

- His shoeprints correspond to shoe prints at the Wetterling scene mixed in with Nike shoe prints worn by Jacob Wetterling. He has the shoes.

- It is the detective who spots this who takes the casts and knows those prints better than other officers.

- Heinrich fails a polygraph examination given by an FBI agent as to whether he was involved with either the Cold Spring abduction or the Wetterling kidnapping.

- He has photos of children seen during the search warrant in his possession and lies about how he obtained them and who they are.

- He has no known adult girlfriends or boyfriends.

- He has the portable police scanner mentioned in the Cold Spring boy and confiscated in an earlier DWI arrest, (mentioned in) the search warrant and seen by Duane Hart, an acquaintance and another suspect.

- He uses every means to evade the surveillance by officers and agents.

- In two assaults, he asks victim's age and grade. (Paynesville and Wetterling)

- All across each of the three cases, he says the same types of things.

- His voice is described by multiple victims as deep, raspy and is very distinctive.

- Duane Hart describes the black ninja suit described by a Paynesville victim.

- He has a handgun as seen by Duane Hart.

- In the same month where he loses his job and when he kidnaps and kills Jacob Wetterling, he asks Duane Hart how to get rid of a body.

- His overall physical description fits Paynesville, Cold Spring and Wetterling cases.

- He fits the composite almost to a "T."

To view the entire presentation, go to this story at www.thenewsleaders.com.

Public meetings set for proposed bus changes

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

There will be two meetings to explain to Sartell residents important changes proposed for Metro Bus service in the city.

Sartell City Council member Ryan Fitzthum, who is a Sartell member of the St. Cloud Metro Bus Commission, announced the proposed changes and public meetings at the last City Council meeting.

The commission is expected to approve the proposed bus route changes at its next meeting. The new service, dubbed "ConneX," would then start Jan. 2 in Sartell. The pilot program will be tried in Sartell and could be extended to other cities that are part of the St.

Cloud-based Metro Bus service.

The first informational session will take place from 3-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at the Sartell Community Center; the second is set for 6 p.m. at the Monday, Oct. 8, Sartell City Council meeting.

Metro Bus service started in Sartell about 15 years ago, including a fixed-route service and Dial-A-Ride. However, recently, the commission determined the fixed route (Route 32) was not very efficient because the many developments and neighborhoods in Sartell are not clearly connective and tend to be in widely separated areas.

The new service, ConneX, will be an on-demand, shared-ride system in which a bus will

pick up people closer to their homes and drop them off closer to their destinations.

Another change is that Route 31 in Sartell, which currently serves Epic Center (Walmart, Sam's Club) will be extended to connect to and from the medical campus, businesses near Connecticut Avenue as well as the nearby CentraCare Health Plaza.

Fares for ConneX will be the same as current bus service, \$1.25 per trip. Dial-A-Ride customers, such as those with disabilities, might well benefit from ConneX because it will likely save them some fare costs.

All of the changes will be described in detail at the two upcoming informational meetings.

Council ponders community-center expenses

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The city's costs for operating the Sartell Community Center came up for discussion at the last City Council meeting.

According to Sartell Financial Director Heidi Ostlie, the city's operational cost is expected to be about \$210,000 through this calendar year.

Council member David Peterson said he would like to know how that compares with the costs of operating the parks in Sartell. He proposed a five-year plan to study city expenses for the community center and the parks and then compare those costs and perhaps adjust them so the city is not spending proportionately more on the center compared with the parks. Peterson noted public-private partnerships have kept the city's share of costs down on the city's recreational amenities, such as ball-field rental fees at Pinecone Central Park and contributions from individuals and businesses.

Rentals also contribute to the costs of running the community center, such as rentals for its several gymnasiums.

Council member Pat Lynch said he sees no need for a five-year plan. The center, he noted, has only been open for about a year. It will take some time be-

fore people gain awareness about the availability of meeting room rentals at the center and for the center to become a choice place for rentals for large events.

Council member Mike Chisum said it's not fair to compare open parks with the center's interior uses. He said the city should find out why meeting-room rentals at the center are not up to what they should be. Is the catering policy dissuading groups from renting there?, he asked. Meals must be catered into the center, not cooked on the premises.

Council member Ryan Fitzthum agreed some kind of long-range expenses plan should be considered. But first, he said, there should be workshop sessions between the council and the center's management team to explore marketing strategies. Then, after a yearlong review has been done, a longer-range plan could begin, Fitzthum said.

Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll said within eight months the center had met anticipated revenues. More public awareness of the meeting rooms will take some time, she added.

The council seemed to come to an agreement that a yearly analysis of operating costs should be done to include how the center is marketed by its management team.

The tennis bubble is back at Sta-Fit



photos by Mike Knaak

Workers monitor the equipment as the tennis dome inflates at Sta-Fit Oct. 1. The dome was damaged in a March ice storm. When it's fully inflated it will cover five tennis courts at the fitness center on Pinecone Road in Sartell.



Workers hold on to their hats and hoods as they enter the dome to install light fixtures. The same pressure that holds the dome up also pushes out when a door is opened.

River Boat's outdoor patio to be larger than first planned

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A riverside outdoor dining patio at the River Boat Depot bar/restaurant in Sartell will be bigger than first expected.

At its last meeting, the Sartell City Council approved an updated interim-use permit for the patio because River Boat Depot's owners decided to expand the patio.

About a month ago, the city council approved a permit for the outdoor patio that would include up to seven tables, two to four chairs per table, with optimal seating for 20 custom-

ers.

The updated permit will allow for about double the number of tables. It will seat up to 48 people. A concrete slab for the patio is expected to be installed soon.

River Boat Depot, which opened nearly 30 years ago, is located just south of Veterans Park on a bluff above the Mississippi River. From the patio area, there will be views of the old city bridge, the former paper-mill site across the river and the hydroelectric dam.

Business hours for the patio will be from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. It will be closed in the winter months.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

After clearing the land, a concrete slab will allow outdoor dining behind River Boat Depot.

Opinion

Our View

Vote 'yes' Nov. 6 to continue district's commitment to education

Voters in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district will be asked on Nov. 6 to approve a levy to fund the second stage of the district's master plan approved three years ago.

As the new high school, the first part of the master plan, nears completion, district leaders are asking voters to approve funding to operate it and to support other district efforts.

Voters should continue their commitment to education by approving the measure.

The levy will raise about \$1.8 million.

The annual financial impact is projected to be an additional \$82 per \$100,000 of assessed value, according to the district. For example, the tax increase will cost the owner of a property with a \$200,000 market value \$165.24 a year.

The Sartell area has grown dramatically during the past three decades, in part because parents want their children to attend Sartell schools. People find Sartell an attractive place to live and the city's popularity means everyone's property values increase.

When the district formed in 1968, 850 students attended class. By 1993, enrollment more than doubled to 1,822.

This year, 4,045 students fill the classrooms, an increase of 150 students from the year before.

That rapid growth meant the district built one high school, then replaced it with a larger high school and now another new high school is nearing completion on Pinecone Road. Each of those older buildings will be used to accommodate the growing number of students in the lower grades.

Most of the money raised by the levy will pay for operations at the new high school. When it opens next fall, it will add an additional 300,000 square feet to bring the district's total space to about a million square feet.

That additional space means more costs for maintenance and heating/cooling.

At the current high school, students' cars overflow the parking lot and cars line neighborhood streets. That won't happen at the new building because the parking lot is bigger. But that also increases costs to snow plow the lots.

The new high school's 80 additional acres doubles the current outdoor space and with it costs for groundskeeping go up too.

A portion of the new money will help the district maintain class sizes, continue pre-school-through-grade-12 programs and provide flexible learning activities. The money will not go for salary increases.

District leaders point out current Sartell per-pupil revenue is among the lowest in the state. Sartell-St. Stephen ranks 324th out of 330 districts with a yearly per-student revenue of \$9,134.

Of the \$1.8 million raised by the new levy, about \$600,000 will come from the state of Minnesota because of equalization formulas.

If you are not convinced to vote yes, please attend one of the community information sessions. At 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10, there's a session at the Sartell Middle School hub. Two weeks later at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 24, there's a meeting in the Sartell High School auditorium.

The district has also set up a website with more information at <http://www.sartell.k12.mn.us/2018levyforlearning>. The site includes a tax impact calculator to figure the exact tax impact on your property.

The district makes a strong case for the levy that will complete the commitment to education approved by the school board in January 2016. Support the plan with a yes vote on Nov. 6.

Wetterling files close case, but memories of missed clues remain

The green numbers on the digital clock flip over to 10:00 a.m.

Six minutes to go.

More than 40 journalists jam a basement meeting room at the Law Enforcement Center and sit in silence waiting for Stearns County Sheriff Don Gudmundson to walk to the podium.

It's been 10,561 days since a man with a history of sexual assaults on young boys snatched Jacob Wetterling as he returned home from a convenience store with his brother and a friend.

Now the digital clock clicks to 10:03 a.m. Gudmundson steps to the podium, shuffles his papers and waits for the clock to roll to 10:06 a.m., the announced start time for the meeting.

As I look around the quiet room, I notice many of the reporters gathered to write the final chapter in the story that has haunted Central Minnesota for 28 years, 10 months and 29 days weren't even born on Oct. 22, 1989.

We gather because two years after Jacob's killer Danny Heinrich goes to jail, after legal battles over the files, Gudmundson is going to release almost 42,000 pages of investigation files.

In the back row of reporters, in front of more than a dozen television cameras set up to record Gudmundson's words, is Jerry Wetterling, Jacob's dad.

For all those years, Jerry has been the always-seen-but-seldom-heard parent. While Jacob's mom, Patty, was interviewed thousands of times and gave hundreds of speeches advocating for child safety, Jerry was there, watching, listening, but speaking sparingly.

Jerry is here again. To listen.

Only two people in the room have been part of the story since the very first day, a Sunday night in 1989.

Jerry and me.

I was working as photo editor at the St. Cloud Times on that October night when I heard the call on the newsroom scanner about a missing boy in St. Joseph.

Mike Knaak
Editor



Missing children calls aren't terribly unusual and most times the parents' panic ends quickly when the child is found at a friend's house or a similar innocent explanation.

But not this time. As radio activity picked up, I decided it was time to head to St. Joseph where I found deputies blocking traffic near what turned out to be the abduction site.

Now, years later, the story is about to end. Rather than just dumping the thousands of files, Gudmundson wisely chose to set the scene with his own narrative of the case revealed in the files. We all know the ending but the files document why the case remained unsolved for decades.

Gudmundson launched his 135-slide PowerPoint by detailing his resume of more than 40 years of homicide investigations, setting up his standing to back up the statements he's about to make.

After reading the files himself, Gudmundson concludes investigators missed 20 clues that would have helped solve the case, the first ones beginning 10 months before Jacob's kidnapping. (Details of Gudmundson's presentation appear in this week's Newsleader.)

As Gudmundson flips through his slides I relive covering the story as it unfolded each day nearly 30 years ago.

The morning after the kidnapping, I returned to St. Joseph, first taking photographs at the Wetterling house and then at the crime scene. My photos at the scene recorded what would turn out to be one of the missed clues on Gudmundson's list.

I photographed Detective Steve Mund making plaster casts of tire and shoe prints. I had known Mund

for years since we both worked on the high school newspaper. He was a meticulous and detailed-focused guy, even in high school.

On Jan. 12, 1990, Mund writes in a report after photographing Heinrich's tires "Photographs were taken of the tires which were consistent with those tires found at the (Wetterling) scene by gross tread design."

And on the same report, Mund writes "It should be noted during the interview, writer observed Mr. Heinrich's soles of his shoes. Found them to appear to be consistent with the footprint pattern found at the scene of Wetterling abduction."

Those words, written by the investigator most familiar with the evidence, end up on Gudmundson's summary of missed clues.

Gudmundson wraps up his presentation by taking questions and talks about what his department has learned. He mentions returning to two other unsolved homicides and making sure investigators read every word of those files.

His words fly by the gathered reporters but to me the victims were real people and stories I had covered – the 1974 killing of the Reker sisters whose bodies were found in a quarry and Mrytle Cole, an 81-year-old Fairhaven woman stabbed to death in her home in 1981.

As Gudmundson ends his presentation, Al Garber, a retired FBI agent who worked the case, challenges the sheriff's conclusions. Gudmundson suggests Garber take his assertions outside.

Moments later, reporters surround Garber on the sidewalk in front of the Law Enforcement Center.

My friend and former colleague, Dave Schwarz, captured the day's most powerful moment in his photo for the St. Cloud Times.

Standing away from the gaggle, there was Jerry Wetterling, leaning against the building, watching and listening. Again.

No, boys won't be boys

Like many these days, I am filled with rage. Your rage may vary from mine, but the particular nature of my rage is coming from all the sexual assault stories. The thing that makes me the maddest in these stories is the men in them and the men reacting to them.

Men, we need to chat. If you have a Y chromosome, you need to listen up. First off, there is a good chance if you're reading this, you have never committed a sex crime. In fact, that should be the norm. Furthermore, let's just say this right now, anyone who has ever assaulted a woman is a piece of dirt who is not worth our time.

Men, we need to be harder on our fellow testicle-Americans. For the past year, we have seen #metoo far too much. Are you listening? I'm telling you now that even if you don't realize it, someone you know has been assaulted. That's just the truth. We are morally obligated to not only listen to women, but to take action.

Patric Lewandowski
Guest Writer



To be fair, lots of action is being taken, even if it's the simple action of listening to women and some people finally losing the positions of power that enabled their abuse. But, I think we can do better. I think there is a simple action the rest of us men can do to help.

We need to point out that this is not normal behavior. It is not acceptable. It is not "boys will be boys" or "locker-room talk." I know not all men act this way because I didn't. I think there's a lot more men *like* me out there than *not* like me.

Men, we need to shame those guys. You know the ones. Many of the same ones who assaulted women bullied other men. There are a number of men who have been afraid as

well, and that fear is the bullies' tool.

No more.

The women have a hashtag and it's great. I propose another hashtag for those of us who are allies. It's a simple hashtag to throw around when anyone tries to tell you such misogynistic behavior is normal, because treating anyone as less than human for any reason is not normal.

#Ididn't.

If someone says, "that's just how men act," you respond #Ididn't. If someone says "boys will be boys," you tell them they are wrong. Yes, people should lose careers and positions of esteem for things they did. It's called "consequences for your actions" and it happens to us all.

Men, we have a moral obligation to ostracize these animals in our gender. It's not all men, and we need to speak up and let those criminals know just how small, pathetic and alone they are in their evil.

Join me and tell those who say, "men always acted that way" #Ididn't.

Kids ripped from parents, then and now

The following words should remind us all of an outrage that demands immediate attention:

“My mother and I were separated when I was but an infant – before I knew her as my mother. It is a common custom in the part of Maryland from which I ran away, to part children from their mothers at a very early age . . .”

That was written by the great abolitionist orator Frederick Douglass, former slave, in his powerful memoir, “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass,” published in 1845.

His words should remind us of what happened at the U.S.-Mexican borders months ago when children were taken from their parents and placed in caged detention centers far and wide.

The perpetrators, in this case, were not slaveholders of yore. This modern separation scheme was devised by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, President Don-

ald Trump and White House advisor Stephen Miller, perhaps the most vociferous of the anti-immigrant bigots in the West Wing.

Their vicious policy puts themselves on par with those slave dealers who ordered blacks up on the auction block, who bought and sold separated family members as if they were cattle.

And this is how those cruel separations were rationalized, justified by both slaveholders and – now – by Trump & Co. For hundreds of years, slave owners de-humanized blacks who were snatched from Africa and elsewhere. They were treated as animals, as objects, as “the other” so they could be exploited to toil on white plantations. Some of the most sadistic owners, who frequently tortured and whipped slaves, sometimes to death, often used religion to justify their “mastery” over others.

In his “populist” rallies,

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



Trump has de-humanized immigrants (especially Mexicans and Muslims), using words such as rapists, animals, drug smugglers, killers, users and dead-beats, thus tarring all immigrants with the same fear-mongering brush.

Trump warned of a “caravan” on its way to the border from Central America, and he couched the impending “invasion” in terms of “infestation” (cockroaches, rats, nasty intruders). He and his anti-immigrant minions decided to do something about it – something drastic to “send a message” back home that those trespassers had better think twice about seeking applications for immigration to this country – otherwise, their kids will be snatched away.

About 3,000 children were separated from mothers and/or fathers. Thanks to public outrage and a judge’s decision, reunification was ordered. However, many of the parents had been deported – without their children – and were not even given a fair hearing. Some were bamboozled into signing papers they didn’t even understand.

The most sickening aspect is there was absolutely no plan for reunification – no plan to track the whereabouts of deported parents and no plan to keep track of the children who were suddenly stranded alone, many of them under the age of 5.

Granted, we need a strict-but-fair immigration policy so everyone involved knows the rules and what’s expected. But has this Congress, this president, even attempted such reform? Of course not.

This Tweeter-in-Chief has lost all moral authority, not that he

had much to begin with. His unspeakably cruel separation policy, which he first tried to blame on the Democrats, will go down in history as a national disgrace. We must not forget; we must demand reunification now for every child, no matter how much time or expense it takes. Republicans in Congress should stop enabling a president who has no clue about the U.S. Constitution or the Rule of Law. Their spineless inaction will come back to bite them. When will we stop being shocked (or pretending to be shocked) by Trump’s dangerous, erratic behavior?

Just imagine the more than 300 children, still detained somewhere, who are crying, lonely, dejected and wondering if they will ever see their mommies and daddies again. And imagine the parents, somewhere far away, longing for their abducted children forever lost to them.

Letters to the editor (See additional letters online at www.thenewsleaders.com)

Bentrud will bring fresh air to sheriff’s office

Lowell A Nielsen, St. Cloud

As we are now in October, we are on the threshold of the Nov. 6 election; as such, we now must know who and what we are voting for as far as the Stearns County Sheriff’s Office is concerned.

First, we are voting for Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud and a “Breath of Fresh Air” into the sheriff’s office. Since 1979 the Stearns County sheriff’s position has been filled from within the department hierarchy, one right after another since 1979 – three times in nearly 40 years before the present, active sheriff was recently appointed.

Secondly, we are voting for a sheriff who will need to work across party lines to get the job done since the sheriff’s office is NOT a partisan (political party designated) position. So, if for any reason voters have purpose not to desire another delegate elected from within the present sheriff’s department, you now know Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud is your candidate to elect. Once again, this is not a political party selection and so we must put aside our preferences as to our particular choice of political party and vote for the most accomplished leader – Dave Bentrud.

I can attest to Dave’s ethics, morals, integrity and that he will follow through with what he says he will do. He will make sure we give the county back to the citizens of Stearns County so the out-county residents will be given the same quick and personal service as those who live within a closer proximity to the sheriff’s office around St. Cloud.

Let’s vote Waite Park Police Chief Dave Bentrud into the Stearns County Sheriff’s office on Nov. 6.

Howe will maintain a ‘pro-life’ majority

Nick Overby, Sartell

I know Joe Perske and Jeff Howe, and consider both of them friends.

They are both very decent men, but I can only vote for one for the state Senate this year. The right-to-life issue is important to me and both of these candidates are pro-life. So which one do I vote for in November?

Minnesota currently has 33 Democrat and 33 Republican senators. Whichever party wins this special election will have a majority and control the senate. Since the leaders of the Democrat Party are pro-abortion liberals, what kind of chance do you think pro-life legislation will have if they take control? My guess is it will have no chance.

Meanwhile, Jeff Howe has a 100-percent rating from Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life because he has a proven record of defending life at the state Capitol. That is why I am voting for Jeff Howe and a pro-life Republican majority, and I encourage you to do the same.

Soyka has experience to run sheriff’s office

Ron Schmidt, St. Joseph

With the Stearns County Sheriff election taking place this fall, I want to remind everyone that your vote matters. Please make sure you exercise your right and get out to vote. I have had the pleasure to know and work with each of the candidates running for sheriff. With that being said, I have decided to cast my vote for Steve Soyka for the following reasons:

Steve has worked a combined

27 years in sheriff’s offices in Central Minnesota and for the past 22 years at the Stearns County Sheriff’s Office. He has worked for the past nine years as a sergeant. Steve is well liked throughout the Sheriff’s Office and respected by his fellow deputies. Throughout the years, Steve has worked his way up in the department to include becoming commander of the Stearns-Benton County SWAT team, and commander of the Central Minnesota Violent Offender Task Force, an eight-agency, five-county cooperative effort to combat illegal drugs and violent criminals.

The position of sheriff takes knowledge of running a large department from the patrol division to the jail and dispatch. Steve has the qualities and experience to run such a department as he has proven during the past several years in taking on demanding roles. Steve conducts himself in a professional manner on or off duty working hard to better the community around him. I have witnessed Steve in some of the most intense high-stress moments and he has always conducted himself in a calm manner that not only creates a calm environment but allows the task at hand to be executed in the safest manner possible.

Please join me on Nov. 6 in casting your vote for the candidate that has you, the public, as his priority. Please vote for Steve Soyka for Stearns County sheriff.

Perske is a ‘true conservative’

Gerry Feld, Sauk Rapids

Minnesota Senate District 13 deserves an honest, strong, hard-working, dedicated leader, willing to go the extra mile. That is why I am endorsing

Stearns County Commissioner Joe Perske for the job.

As District 13 grows, we need a senator who understands the problems and has worked with them from the ground level. As mayor of Sartell, Joe worked with members of the community to solve problems and prepare the city for future growth. He recognized the St. Cloud metro area was rapidly growing, and it was necessary for Sartell to be prepared to meet future challenges.

As a Stearns County commissioner, Joe had to work with issues regarding both rural and urban affairs. While dealing with these issues and people, Joe never forgot the basic principles he was taught as a child. Always treat others as you would like to be treated.

Joe has kept those principles alive as he worked with the youth of his community. As an athletic coach, Joe not only taught his players sportsmanship, but he became a guiding hand in the lives of his players. He was never too busy to talk with his players about life and being good citizens.

Of course being married for 39 years, Joe understands the challenges of raising a family on a budget that sometimes does not leave much for many luxuries. As a husband and father, Joe deals with the same issues every family in Senate District 13 faces on a daily basis.

By electing Joe Perske to the state Senate, we will have a man in St. Paul who has already worked hard in city and county government to solve problems and face tough issues head on.

As an independent conservative, I believe Joe is the true conservative in this race. His lifestyle and work ethic has proven this time and again. Please join me in sending Joe to

the state Senate. He is a good man, with an honest forthright outlook on life, that can make a huge difference in the state Capitol, where he will work hard for Senate District 13.

Volunteering can help relieve sadness, depression

Sara Heurung, area supervisor, Foster Grandparent Program

With the cooler weather and shorter days this past week, I find myself getting ready for another Great Minnesota Winter.

When we think about Minnesota winters some talk of the bitter cold and shorter days, while others talk about the beauty of the falling snow and hoarfrost. What many don’t talk about is Seasonal Affective Disorder.

SAD is a form of depression that cycles with the seasons, and although it can happen with any season, it’s most common during the winter months because of the shorter days and the lack of time spent outdoors.

Those who are clinically diagnosed with SAD may be prescribed antidepressants or advised to partake in light therapy. But, what else can people do to combat the symptoms of SAD? Volunteer.

Studies have found those who volunteer report shorter periods of sadness and depression than those who do not. When one volunteers, they are guaranteed to get out of the house and meet other people. Volunteering can boost self-esteem and expand connections in a community, which has been linked to longer life expectancy and better health. Volunteering has been known to give one a sense of purpose and makes one feel good about themselves (www.nonprofitshub.org).

Happy faces at Harvest Festival



photos by Carolyn Bertsch
 Tomoko Rebeck of Sartell and her daughters Sara, 7, and Aki, 11, work together on a pumpkin craft Sept. 21 at the St. Joseph Farmers' Market Harvest Festival.



With her face freshly painted, Ellie Gucinski, 4, of Sartell, enjoys the petting zoo Sept. 21 at the St. Joseph Farmers' Market Harvest Festival.

DRINKING & DRIVING SHATTERS DREAMS

 A graphic illustration showing a car crashing into a wall, with a bottle of alcohol nearby. The text is in large, bold, colorful letters.

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