

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Jan. 25, 2019
Volume 24, Issue 2
Est. 1995

Town Crier Local K of C to sponsor youth free-throw contest

Boys and girls, ages 9-14, are invited to the local level of competition for the 2019 Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship on Sunday, Jan. 27 at the St. Joseph Catholic School gym, 32 W. Minnesota St. Registration and practice is at 12:30 p.m.; the contest begins at 1 p.m. Winners progress through local, district and state competition. Last year, more than 120,000 sharpshooters participated in more than 3,600 local competitions. All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the annual event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For more information, contact Mark Berg-Arnold at 320-363-1077.

St. Ben's hosts Girls, Women in Sports Day

The College of St. Benedict Blazers Basketball Team hosts Bethel at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 30, as part of a celebration for National Girls and Women in Sports Day. The 2019 Bennie Spotlight Award honoree, Nancy Frost Belmont, will be honored at halftime along with a performance by the CSB dance team. All girls and women wearing a sports jersey will receive free admission to this event.

SYHA Raffle: \$41,00 in prizes

Sartell Youth Hockey is now conducting its annual Scheels raffle with a grand prize of \$1,499.99; 100 prizes in total; 1:20 odds. Winners can choose the awarded firearm, with proper credentials, or a gift card for the awarded value. The gift card is redeemable for any merchandise in the St. Cloud store. Tickets may be purchased at both Blue Line Bar & Grill locations, the Firing Line Indoor Range & Gun Shop, during varsity hockey games at Bernick's Arena or from SYHA members. For more information, visit sartellhockeyraffle.com.

Snowmobile safety class offered

A snowmobile safety class starts at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, for riders 11 years of age or older.

Participants must have completed the online course in order to register. To sign up, send the student's name, date of birth and contact information to snowmobilesafety@co.benton.mn.us. Class is limited to 25 students. No walk-ins will be accepted. A parent or guardian must accompany each student on testing day. The instructor is Sgt. James Dingmann of the Benton County Sheriff's Office.

Bids to be taken for Celebration, again

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

An ordering of bids was approved by the Sartell City Council at its last meeting for safety improvements in the Celebration neighborhood of Sartell.

The estimated cost of the project is about \$500,000 for the actual

construction, with an additional \$125,000 to cover soft costs, such as design.

Bids will be opened sometime in February.

Celebration neighborhood has been plagued with draining problems and water build-up in alleys and some streets, causing slippery

spots in cold weather and degradation of pavement and surfacing, and causing widespread safety concerns for residents and visitors.

Construction to improve the drainage will take place between April and August of 2019. City staff, the engineering firm and the council have taken public input for

the project for more than a year. Final plans were approved in July of last year, but bids came in higher than expected and so bids were rejected and the project will have to be rebid.

Assessments to residents who live in that neighborhood are expected to be about \$1,000 per lot.



A day off, a day out

photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Blustering wind and cold temperatures did not prevent the Calhoun family of Sartell from sledding fun Jan. 21 at the hill near St. Francis Xavier. They are (left to right) Carissa; Aubriella, 7; Zander, 15; and Matt.

SS River Runners to celebrate 50th birthday

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

Nineteen sixty-nine was a long, long time ago – a half century, to be exact, but some members of the St. Stephen River Runners snowmobile remember that year fondly, as if it were yesterday, because that's the year their club began.

The club's members are planning a huge public birthday celebration to memorialize the 50-year event Saturday, Feb. 9, at various venues in downtown St. Stephen. Everyone is welcome, including nonsnowmobilers. It will start at noon that day at Trobec's Bar with a Vintage Sled Show followed by a Vintage Ride from 2:30-4:30 p.m. For a complete list of the day's activities, see end of this story.

Historic year

In 1969, the following newsworthy events happened: For the first time, two American men – Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin – land on the moon; a music festival in upstate New York, dubbed Woodstock, attracts more than 350,000 young music fans; the Boeing 747 jumbo jet makes its first flight; members of the Charles Manson cult murder six people in the Los Angeles area; the Beatles release “Abbey Road” and give their final live performance on the rooftop of Apple Records in London; a motorcycle movie called “Easy Rider” is a smash hit; football great Brett Favre is born; Richard Nixon is elected president; 200,000 people march in Washington, D.C., to protest the nation's involvement in the Vietnam War.

Members

The nonprofit St. Stephen River Runners was one of the first to be organized in Minnesota.

There are about 30 active members in the St. Stephen River Runners, but counting members' children, friends and relatives who love to ride, that number is 40 riders and sometimes far more, depending on the event.

There are 14 members from St. Stephen, six from Sartell, a few from St. Joseph, one from Rice, one or two from Holdingford, St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids, and a few from rural areas in the general vicinity.

Dan Neid, who lives in Sartell, is the club's media director. He's been a member since 2016 when one day he walked into a club meeting and decided to join, partly

River • page 4



contributed photo

Working at night, two members of the St. Stephen River Runners put up trail signage. The men are Paul Radake (left) and Mike Hornung.

Pond-hockey tourney set for Feb. 1-3 in Sartell

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

There is a 13-year-old kid inside of 63-year-old Gary Hines – a kid who pops up smiling and gleeful when Hines recalls his days of playing pond hock-

ey so many years ago in his hometown, Little Falls.

Hines, a longtime hockey coach for Sartell and Sauk Rapids, is the owner of Hockey Zone Minnesota in Waite Park. He is also the organizer of the Granite City Pond Hock-

ey Championship Tournament that will take place Feb. 1-3 at Blackberry Ridge Golf Club in Sartell.

Hines happily admits that hockey brings out the “kid” in him. As a boy, he and his neighbors loved nothing bet-

ter than to play outside in the winter months, especially pond hockey. When talking about those days, Hines bubbles over with gleeful nostalgia, as if his long-ago youth is just a breath away.

Pond • page 4

People



contributed photo

Sartell Squirt B White team members are (front) Jake Ashby; (second row, left to right) Brady Anderson, Luke Webster, Landyn Stavos, Cade Budde and Ben Marushin; (third row) Keaton Landowski, Brayden Klande, Kaden Peterlin, Isaac Menzter, Nathan Gjemse and Landon Kimble; and (back row) coaches Travis Peterlin, JD Anderson, Tom Gjemse and Pat Marushin.

The **Sartell Squirt B White** team won the Wayzata Freeze Squirt B1 tournament during the weekend of Jan. 4-6. In the Jan. 4 game against STMA B1 Gold, Sartell won 8-5. On Jan.

5, Sartell hung on to beat Blaine 3-2, getting the winning goal with under two minutes left. In the championship game, Sartell earned a 6-2 win over Andover.



contributed photo

Free-throw participants (left to right) Devin Lawson, Grant Kurowski, Tyler Thole, Brady Thompson and Grand Knight of the Bishop Trobec Council No. 5276, Dan Kurowski.

The **Knights of Columbus Bishop Trobec Council No. 5276** conducted a free-throw contest on Jan. 12 At. St. Francis Xavier School. Boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 14 were invited to participate. There was a boy and girl winner in each age group and they will advance to the district level at St. Francis on Saturday, Feb. 9.

Gabrielson Law Office has been accepted as one of the American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys 10 Best Law Firms in Minnesota in client satisfaction for 2018. The American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys is a third-party attorney rating organization that publishes an annual list of the Top 10 personal injury attorneys in each state.

Ten Sartell students have been named to the fall dean's list at the University of Minnesota Duluth. To qualify for this honor, students must achieve a minimum grade-point average of 3.5.

The students are: **Bret Burggraff, Laurana Deuel, Rachel Eisenschenk, Wyatt Hill, Nicholas Johnson, Kevin Krauel, Nathaniel Miller, Danny Nguyen, Alayna Paulsen-Trombley and Trevor Rath.**

Kerry Ashfeld of St. Stephen has been named to the president's list at Central Lake College, Brainerd. To qualify for this honor, a student must main-

tain a minimum grade-point average of 3.75.

Twenty Sartell students have been named to the fall semester dean's list at North Dakota State University, Fargo. A student must earn a minimum 3.50 grade-point average to qualify.

The students are: **Peter Amundson, Amanda Burge, Jonathan Carlson, Arianna Christian, Dawson Coleman, Courtney Deters, Jessica Deters, Ryan Dumont, Ryan Fernholz, Alyssa Frank, Benjamin Grant, Morgan Grasswick, Callie Grosz, Michael Heim, Samantha Killmer, Bailey Offerdahl, Macy Senn, Kirk Staiger, Sydney Thieschafer and Benjamin Yelle.**

Six area students recently graduated from the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth. They include the following local students: **Emily Crilly, Jessica Eisenschenk, Andrea Johnson, Jodie Lieser and Chelsey Mersbergen**, all of Sartell, and **Maggy Hiza** of St. Stephen.

Sophie Loberg, daughter of Dawn and Jeff Loberg of Sartell, was named to the fall semester dean's list at the University of Minnesota. She maintained a minimum 3.666 grade-point average to earn this honor.

Hannah Yackley of St. Stephen was named to the fall semester dean's list at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. To be eligible for this honor, a student needs a minimum 3.5 grade-point average.

Five area students have been named to the fall semester dean's list at Minnesota State University, Moorhead. Students must maintain a minimum 3.25 grade-point average to qualify.

The students are **Mikayla Gessell, Kia Grindland, Rhett Staiger and Nathan Stracke**, all of Sartell, and **Tessa Schwinghammer** of St. Stephen.

Four Sartell students were recently named to the fall dean's list at Iowa State University, Ames. Students must earn a minimum 3.50 grade-point average to achieve this honor.

The students are: **Taylor Buske, Anna Ellis, Seth Daniel Jenkins and Jordan Och.**

Four Sartell students graduated in fall 2018 from North Dakota State University, Fargo. They are: **Amanda Burge, Ryan Dumont, Michael Heim and Michael Kutz.** Dumont and Heim graduated with honors after achieving a grade-point average of 3.50 or higher.

Austin Sura of Sartell has been named to the fall dean's list for outstanding scholarship at the University of Notre Dame (Indiana) College of Engineering. Students who achieve this honor represent the top 30 percent of students in their college.



contributed photo

The **Sartell Sabre Peewee A** team competed in the Edina Tradition Invitational. During pool play they defeated Madison 8-1, Minnetonka 2-0 and Eagan 3-1 to advance to the championship game against the host team Edina. They fell short after a hard-fought third period with a final score of 3-2. The tournament was Dec. 27-30.



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Reaching Everybody!
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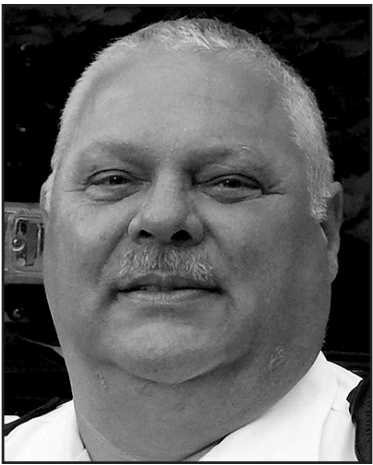
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Deputy Chief Struffert to retire after 34 years

After 34 years in the law-enforcement profession and 29 of them serving Sartell, Deputy Police Chief Dale Struffert will retire this May.

In a letter to Police Chief Jim Hughes, Struffert stated that “recent changes in PERA, as well as continued issues with my personal health, have caused me to realize that it is time for a change in my life.”

Struffert also stated he is willing to be part of the transition process to make it go as smoothly as possible for a new deputy chief.



Deputy Chief Dale Struffert

Volunteers needed for two city boards

The city of Sartell is looking for volunteers to serve on two city boards – the Planning Commission and Economic Development Commission.

The Economic Development Commission consists of Sartell and Le Sauk Township residents appointed by the City Council to make recommendations on development issues. The board meets every other month on the third Tuesday, usually at 7 a.m.

The Planning Commission meets the first Monday of every month, usually at 6:30 p.m.

Council approves \$10-million bond

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell City Council at its last meeting unanimously approved the issuance of a \$10-million general obligation bond.

The bond will pay for three needs in the city: \$7 million for the East Side Reconstruction Overlay Plan, \$2 million for Phase 2 construction of the Sartell Public Facilities Building (new police and fire department headquarters) and \$1 million for a new fire department ladder truck.

A representative of Ehlers &

The commission serves as an advisory board and provides recommendations on land-use and zoning matters.

Applications will be accepted through Feb. 5. Then candidates will be interviewed by the City Council and appointments made on Feb. 25.

Application forms are available on the city’s website at www.sartellmn.com under e-forms, by emailing anita@sartellmn.com or by stopping at City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

Associates, Sartell’s financial/bonding company, presented details of the bond sale. Bids on the bond were opened the morning of Jan. 14, and Wells Fargo was the lowest bidder.

She noted the bond has a “great” interest rate of 2.97 percent, thanks to Sartell’s excellent bond rating from Standard and Poor’s for the city’s good budget management and healthy liquidity.

The payback terms of the bond will vary: for the east-side project five years, for the ladder truck 10 years and for the public facilities building 15 years.

Senior group thanks city council

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

It was a night for new faces, an evening for celebration, a time for cupcakes.

On Jan. 14 at the Sartell City Council meeting room, four city-council members took their oaths of office – new mayor Ryan Fitzthum (formerly a council member) and new council members Brady Andel, Tim Elness and Jeff Kolb. Those four joined the only council member still serving from the previous council – Mike Chisum.

After they took their oaths, one by one, a surprise guest announced she’d brought a big tray of cupcakes to celebrate the occasion. Paulette Levasseur,

who is chair and volunteer coordinator for the Sartell Senior Connection, said she brought the treats in honor of the newly-constituted city council and also to commemorate the first birthday of the Sartell Community Center, which opened about a year ago. The Sartell Senior Connection, a group of very active senior citizens, has a “home” in the community center, a long-delayed wish come true.

Levasseur congratulated the new council members and told the council the senior-center headquarters is a “fabulous” place.

She recalled that, as a member of the Jaycees Women’s group in the early 1990s, she and others raised money for a wading pool at

Watab Park but that their larger goal was to push for a community center in Sartell. That goal finally became a reality nearly 30 years later.

“We’d been waiting for a long time,” she said.

In just one year, the senior center held two brunches for veterans, enlisted many speakers on a wide range of topics, sponsored special events for all Sartell residents and out-of-town visitors, and some senior members created 500 caps to donate to disabled veterans and people in need who seek help from Tri-Cap social programs.

“That was all in the first year (of the center), and there will be more to come,” Levasseur said to the council.

Meetings for low-income housing rehab grants set

The city of Sartell has been invited to apply for a grant to fund home rehabilitation for low- to moderate-income homeowners.

Meetings are scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 7, for homeowners and owners of rental property.

The meetings will be at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. The session for homeowners begins at 6 p.m. followed by a meeting for rental property owners at 7 p.m.

For homeowners, maps of the target area for funding are available at the Sartell City Hall or by contacting Ed Zimny at Central Minnesota Housing Partnership Inc., 320-258-0673.

For rental owners, there is a target area for multi-family rental units, however, single family and duplex rental units are eligible citywide.

The application to the Department of Employment and Economic Development is due Feb. 28.

“The applications for these funds are very competitive. Last year only 26 communities received their request for funding” Zimny said in a press release.

One of the areas that increases a community’s chances of receiving funding is to be able to demonstrate owner interest

in using the program. A well-attended meeting will improve Sartell’s chances for a successful application.

ST. JOSEPH ROD AND GUN CLUB 26th ANNUAL

ICE FISHING CONTEST

3rd SATURDAY

Saturday, Feb. 16

NOON-2:30 P.M. • KRAEMER LAKE

Tickets: \$15 Advanced (Until 6 p.m., Feb. 15)

\$20 At The Lake

\$10 Kids (13 & under) Advanced & at the Lake

OVER \$3,000 IN PRIZES

PRIZES:

Two Categories: Game and Pan Fish

\$200 FOR LARGEST FISH

\$150 FOR 2nd LARGEST

\$100 FOR 3rd LARGEST

5 GRAND PRIZES:

FREE overnight fish house rental for 4 people on Upper Red Lake!

Donated by JR's Corner Access. Sign up at the lake. Must be present to win.

Donated by the St. Joseph Rod & Gun Club:

(1) Clam Refuge Ice Thermal FLR Fish House

(1) Clam Retreat Ice

(2) HT Polar Fire XT Power Ice Auger

All Other Registered Fish Qualify For One Of 20 – \$20 Cash Drawings!

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(MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN)

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Nashville (2 nights) & Memphis (2 nights).....April 10-17; 8 days

Spring Branson Tour, 5 great shows inc. “Samson”.....April 22-27; 6 days

ARK Encounter & Creation Museum + Nappanee-Amish.....April 23-28

Pella Tulip Festival and Amana Colonies.....April 30-May 3; 4 days

Mackinac Island (2 nights) & Door County (2 nights).....June 22-27; 6 days

Niagara Falls (2 nights) and Mackinac Island.....July 19-26; 8 days

Great Parks of the West Tour.....July 30-Aug 6; 8 days

Summer Medora (2 nights-Medora).....Aug 6-8; 3 days

Canadian Rockies, Glacier Park & Medora.....Aug 7-14; 8 days

--more fall tours added--

ALASKA Roundtrip Air + Motorcoach & Ferry:

Fly to Juneau/return Anch July 21-Aug 1; 12 days

ALASKA Roundtrip Air + Motorcoach

Fly to Fairbanks/return Anch July 26-Aug 1; 7 Days

TRAVEL SHOW

Tuesday, Feb 12 6:30 p.m.

Quality Inn

4040 2nd Street South, St. Cloud

Come and join us for refreshments and information on Utopia Tours 2019. Tours and a presentation by our European Specialist Ken Koob on the following escorted tours:

Splendor of Norway.....July 15-25, 2019

Scotland/Ireland with Military Tattoo Performance.....Aug. 10-20, 2019

Cities of Lights Paris to Prauge-Viking River Cruises.....Oct. 8-20, 2019

Landmarks of Europe with Oberammergau Passion Play.....Aug 3-15, 2020

It's time again for

River of Life's Annual

WILD GAME FEED!

6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26 at

River of Life in Cold Spring

For everyone ages 12 and older!

We always have great food and awesome giveaways along with an insightful message. There is no cost for this great evening of fun, food and friends!

We hope you will be able to join us at this fun annual event!

See our website for all the information: riveroflifeag.org

River of Life Church: 22881 178th Ave, Cold Spring

Feel free to contact us if you have any further questions at 320.597.7777

River

from front page

because he likes the way the club involves spouses and children and how they chip in to do good deeds for towns and people. The two children of Dan and Carrie Neid – Megan, 12; and Ethen, 15 – help with trail work, and Megan helps with snowmobile safety training programs.

Neid is a wine-and-beer distributor for the Johnson Brothers Liquor Co.

An individual membership for the club costs \$30 annually; a family membership is \$35, which covers any children under the age of 18.

Meetings are at 7 p.m. every other Wednesday, September through April at Trobec’s Bar. The upcoming ones are scheduled for Feb. 6 and 12; March 6 and 20; and April 3 and 17. Anyone considering joining or just wanting to find out more about the club should just show up at a meeting.

The current St. Stephen River Runners club president is Rodney Welch of St. Joseph whose wife, Lori, is also very active in the club.

What they do

There are 13.31 miles of snowmobile trail the River Runners maintain and groom, most of the trail in St. Stephen and immediately surrounding it. Periodic fundraisers help foot the costs, including maintenance of the big trail-grooming machines. The current trail owned and managed by River Runners connects to the St. Joseph Sno-Joes Trail near Sartell. It also connects to the north with the Holdingford Sno-Flyers Trail.

Currently, the club plans to open an access point on the trail to connect with the Sartell area.

The River Runners typically host a summer barbecue party at a club member’s lake cabin. They also host snowmobile-raffle fundraisers; safety courses for young people;

Adopt-a-Highway ditch cleanups; Community Day trail signage and trail cleanup in spring and fall; a kick-off-the-season party and trail ride; and each year a special ride in another area. Last year, they enjoyed a long ride near Two Harbors in the Lake Superior North Shore; this year, they’re going to Walker. Usually, the ride participants put in from 75 up to 125 miles per day, including warm-ups stops, lunch times and so forth.

The club also participates in rides for good causes, such as the Blackwoods Blizzard Tour to raise funds for research into ALS (aka Lou Gehrig’s disease). Some club members participate in the Veterans Day Ride, now in Grand Rapids but formerly in Paynesville.

“That was caused by lack of snow in Paynesville,” Neid said. “That’s why it was moved to Grand Rapids.”

Lack of snow, Neid said, is the annual dread of every snowmobiler because no snow means no fun.

Birthday party

The following is the schedule for the Feb. 9 River Runners’ 50th Birthday Party:

- Noon-2 p.m. Vintage Sled Show. Registration, hot dogs and chili.
- 2:15 p.m. Judging and prizes for Best of Show and People’s Choice awards.
- 2:30- 4:30 p.m. Vintage Ride, for anyone who wants to participate. Any year of sled can join in.
- 2:30-4:30 p.m. Games at Howie’s Bar for those not going on the Vintage Ride.
- 4:30- 6 p.m. Vintage Clothing Contest and prizes at Rusty Nail Bar.
- 6-8 p.m. Entertainment and taco bar at Trobec’s Bar. At 8 p.m. the 50/50 Raffle Drawing will take place, and a meat raffle will last from 6-8 p.m. The first prize is 50 percent of the prize pool, second prize 25 percent and so forth.

Proceeds from the day’s events will be used for trail and grooming costs.

Pond

from front page

And he giggles like a kid when he recalls how his father years ago would take the kids out riding deep into the country in his 1953 Ford. The father would tie a rope onto the back of the car and to the front of a big toboggan, and the kids would pile on and off they’d go, laughing and shouting with joy, along the sleek, snowy roads.

Hines wants, more than anything, for kids nowadays to experience the same kinds of winter pleasures.

“My hope, my want, my wish,” he said, “is for families to have the same fun we did years ago, to get outside in winter and socialize with fun and games, to have fun without win-or-lose pressures.”

Hines said he worries about how so many children are tuning into their iPhones and other electronic gizmos but tuning out from in-person communication.

“When I was a kid, we had so much fun with the neighbors,” he said. “Nowadays, too many families are inundated with schedules, always so busy they forget to have fun. People should socialize more, and having fun outdoors is a way to do that. What’s needed is unstructured fun, without a lot of rules and with no pressure from coaches and parents.”

Hines has a hope and a vision that it can happen, if only parents and children are exposed to a chance to have fun – pond hockey, ice skating, winter walks, sleigh rides, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and more. Recently, Hines’s business donated 40 pairs of skates to Blackberry Ridge so people who don’t happen to own skates can visit, put on skates and zip around an outdoor rink or cautiously, wobbly, learn to skate for the first time.



contributed photo

Ice rinks have opened on the grounds of Blackberry Ridge Golf Club in Sartell. The rinks will be the venues for all kinds of outdoor winter fun, including a pond-hockey tournament Feb. 1-3.

In early January, three outdoor ice rinks were constructed and flooded just outside the Blackberry Ridge clubhouse. Hines and many others are hoping the winter activities will catch on and grow, joining friends, families and new acquaintances together for social fun – not to mention healthy exercise. Many years ago in Sartell, there was a popular festival called “Winter Haven” in the city’s Watab Park area that attracted people from throughout central Minnesota and even as far away as the Twin Cities. Hines is hoping that kind of winter fun can become a renewed tradition at Blackberry Ridge and other winter-activity venues in the area.

Hines said throughout his 20 years of coaching hockey, he constantly was happy and inspired every time he’d see the smiles on the faces of kids who were having so much fun.

“Those smiles made all the work so worthwhile,” he said. “Those shining eyes and smiles when they’d catch on about how to play. That kept me going, year after year. And it was fun for them without the win-or-lose worries.”

In 2011, Hines and others

started the nonprofit Minnesota Youth Foundation, and in 2012 the organization started pond hockey on rinks upon Lake George near downtown St. Cloud. Blackberry Ridge will be a much better venue, he said, because its location is rural, with a good wintry-landscape feel.

Hines is encouraging people to check out, online, the Feb. 1-3 Granite City Pond Hockey tournament. The site is www.gcpondhockey.com

Each team, various categories for youth and adult, will be limited to six people, with each game on the 50- by 100-foot rinks not lasting very long – 15 minutes or so. There will be a big warming tent set up with plywood floor, with food and beverages and some wood fires burning near the rink.

Hines and Blackberry Ridge staff are continuing to work on more family-fun winter events, including a pond hockey tournament for military veterans and perhaps a program or two in conjunction with the Hockey Hall of Fame in Eveleth.

To find out more about ongoing winter activities at Blackberry Ridge, call 320-257-4653.

Sartell Swarm

Registration for 2019 Summer Season
Girls ages 6-18 fastpitch softball

For more information and to register, go to www.sartellfastpitch.com.

Registration is now open through 2/18/19.
New this year: teams formed by grade for school year 2019-2020.



Contact Angela Swenson
with registration questions at
angela@sartellfastpitch.com



Little Sabres Preschool Open House

2019-20 School Year • Three- and four-year-olds

Students must be 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, 2019.

5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28

Stop in for a tour, meet staff
and pick up registration paperwork.
Registration starts Monday, Feb. 4.



Little Sabres Preschool

Sartell-St. Stephen School District Service Center
212 3rd Ave. N., Sartell (enter door 2)



CENTRACARE quickClinic

Convenient, walk-in care now available in Sartell!

Located in Coborn’s on Pine Cone Road, Sartell

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Sports medicine class takes students from classroom to operating room

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Students in Ryan Hacker’s Advanced Sports Medicine class found themselves in the operating room as well as the classroom as they observed medical professionals and their patients.

Through a partnership with St. Cloud Orthopedics and St. Cloud Surgical Center, the 13 class members were able to follow a patient from diagnosis to recovery and learn firsthand the details of treatment by a cast of medical professionals.

Two of the students, seniors Kelli Loscheider and Kathleen Harthan, followed a man with a rotator cuff injury.

Loscheider and Harthan, and the other students, reported on their experience in end-of-class presentations. They shared their step-by-step experiences using graphs and videos to illustrate what they learned.

They described in detail the injury, treatment plan, what they observed in the Nov. 19 surgery and how the man slowly recovered.

“It was good to see more than just the surgery,” Harthan said. “We got to see the healing process.”

“We got to see what every medical person does,” Loscheider said.

The students said they bonded with their patient, even receiving an invitation for Thanksgiving dinner.

“We had fun seeing his progress,” which included several sessions of physical therapy, Loscheider said. “We got more than what we expected to see.”

Harthan and Loscheider also shadowed trainers at athletic events



photo by Mike Knaak

Advanced Sports Medicine students Kelli Loscheider (left) and Kathleen Harthan explained the details of following a man with a rotator cuff injury from diagnosis to recovery.

and Loscheider had to cut the sutures when a hockey player got stitched.

The project begins with the students attending orientation at the surgical center and by the third week of the quarter, they are watching the surgery. With surgeries and appointments, Hacker estimated students spend more than 30 hours outside of class plus the regular homework for the class.

“In Sartell, we have lots of students who want to be in the medical professions,” Hacker said. “This is an opportunity to get into a real workplace.”

Because of access limitations at the two medical facilities, the class size needs to be small. About 40 students will take the class during

this school year.

Harthan and Loscheider said the experience helped narrow their choices for college and careers.

Loscheider is considering a career as a physical therapist or physician’s assistant and plans to attend the College of St. Scholastica.

Harthan wants to be a registered nurse or physical therapist. She’s considering the University of Minnesota, the University of Wisconsin-Madison or the University of Arizona.

“There are so many different college programs,” Harthan said. “The class helped us to decide what we want to do. Not that many high school students get this type of opportunity.”

Babich excited about Blackberry Ridge ice rink

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The start of the new year is filled with a growing excitement for Sonja Babich, who was recently honored as Sartell Chamber of Commerce Member of the Year.

“I was honored and tickled to win that award,” Babich said.

She was praised at the awards ceremony for her sense of community, her hospitality, her constant emphasis on “giving back” and her longtime work for the Chamber. She served as its president in 2016.

For the past eight years, Babich has been director of sales and marketing for Blackberry Ridge Golf Club. The year 2019 is filled with promise for the club and its visitors, with new full-filled activities planned, Babich noted.

A major innovation at the club is the three outdoor skating rinks that opened in early January on the grounds of Blackberry Ridge. Babich and other outdoor enthusiasts are hoping family skating fun on the rinks will grow into an annual area winter festival with lots of outdoor fun – skating, sledding, cross-country

skiing, musical entertainment, food and beverages.

Currently, boot hockey leagues are being formed for play on the rinks. There will be open skating time on weekends, and private parties (with skating) for Thursday nights.

Babich is also looking forward to a Feb. 1-3 fun-for-all Granite City Pond Hockey Championship Tournament at Blackberry Ridge coordinated by Gary Hines, owner of Hockey Zone Minnesota in Waite Park, with help from Babich and the Blackberry Ridge staff, especially its owner, Wes Fenlason.

For more information about skating times and upcoming events, visit the Blackberry Ridge website at www.blackberryridgegolf.com or call the club at 320-257-4653.

Babich has been a member of the Sartell Chamber of Commerce since January 2014. She has served on its Events and Marketing Committee and as a board member for the Sartell-St. Stephen Education Foundation. She is also a volun-



Babich

teer teacher with the Junior Achievement program.

A 2006 graduate of Sartell High School, Sonja Babich served as class president and student-council president. She earned degrees from Concordia College, Moorhead, in communications, public relations, graphic design and print-making.

One of her first jobs was executive administrative assistant for Carlson Investments in Edina. Her job at Blackberry Ridge includes contracting, coordinating and managing corporate events, golf outings, weddings, trade shows and many other special events. She also assists with the day-to-day management of the golf club.

Babich said she has always been proud and honored to be part of the Sartell Chamber of Commerce, which was founded in 1999 as part of the St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce with only 20 Sartell business members at that time. In 2016, the chamber members of Sartell decided to join forces with the city-led Hospitality and Visitors’ Service to increase exposure for Sartell businesses. The Sartell Chamber has grown steadily since and currently has 200 members.

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Optical

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Opinion

News has no ‘sides,’ only facts

Mike
Knaak

Editor



their ethics code requires they correct their mistakes.

Analysis is written by reporters or others with special expertise or experience that help them give readers insights to what’s happening and why.

Opinion comes from many sources. Editorial boards or editors often offer opinion pieces to spur discussion and start a conversation. Columnists share their opinions to challenge or dispute conventional thinking. Readers submit letters to the editor.

Whether news, analysis or opinion, the writing should be based on facts. Sometimes those facts make people question their accepted reality.

Rather than looking to Smart News, look to trusted news brands. Locally, the reporters and editors at the St. Cloud Times, WJON, the Star Tribune, MPR and the Newleader adhere to ethical, fact-based reporting and opinion.

Nationally, subscribe to the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal and read the Associated Press, Reuters and Bloomberg online. Watch the major broadcast networks and CNN and MSNBC (in the daytime). Stay far away from Daily Kos and Occupy Democrats on the left and Fox, Breitbart, InfoWars and the Daily Caller on the right.

Even though print newsrooms and print editions have shrunk significantly in the last 10 years, they still have the biggest staffs and most experienced reporters (and in Minnesota, MPR joins the group of strong newsrooms.) Watch any broadcast or cable news coverage and you’ll see their coverage driven by stories produced by print newsrooms and their affiliated websites.

Stay away from social media as well. Social media is great for sharing photos of your cat or sending your friends a delicious recipe. But it’s not the place for news.

As we’ve recently seen, social media is a good place for mischief when it comes to news.

The most recent evidence about the dangers of looking to social media for news comes from an Associated Press report on a new study about “fake news.”

The study found people over 65 and ultra conservatives shared about seven times more fake information masquerading as news on the social media site than younger adults, moderates and super liberals. The simplest theory for why older people share more false information is a lack of “digital literacy.”

Saying your news comes from social media is like saying your food comes from the grocery store. When it comes to food, farmers are the true, trusted source and when you are looking for news, go to the trusted brands and leave apps for finding cheap hotel rooms and Uber rides.

Obama’s ‘Becoming’ is a stunning book

Dennis
Dalman

Reporter



keen (often comical) observations, vivid memories both happy and sad, and profound psychological insights, especially comments about the roadblocks and hurdles Michelle and other blacks had to – still have to – struggle against in a society of systemic, racial biases. One example is that her parents taught her always to speak impeccably correct English. At Princeton, when hanging out with black women students, she was hurt to the core when one of them derisively asked her how come she talks like a “white girl.” Yes, the racial biases came sometimes from blacks too.

She met and fell in love with Barack Obama when she was tutoring him as a new employee at a corporate law firm in Chicago. Her life soon changed drastically as she began to focus on public service, like Barack, rather than corporate problems.

For a long time, she was a queasily reluctant wife of a passionate political leader/community activist – mainly because she worried always about their two daughters, Malia and Sasha, missing time with their father and always being in the public eye. How she handled all the hurdles,

all the juggling of family and work duties, makes for fascinating reading in a perfectly titled book – “Becoming.” Her constant “becoming” and adapting to political life was not easy. Far from it. At times it was a case of cursed if you do, cursed if you don’t, as detractors used vicious tactics in attempts to vilify her and her husband.

She writes this: “I was female, black, and strong, which to certain people, maintaining a certain mindset, translated only to ‘angry.’ It was another damaging cliché, one that’s been forever used to sweep minority women to the perimeter of every room, an unconscious signal not to listen to what we’ve got to say.”

In her book, Michelle doesn’t whine or complain or blame, but she does lay it on the line in a straightforward no-nonsense style and dissects many of her own insecurities and doubts.

She has a touch of the poet. Some of her sentences and paragraphs are virtual poems: “Here’s a memory and like most memories is imperfect and subjective – collected long ago like a beach pebble and slipped into the pocket of my mind.”

I love her evocation of winter: “In the Midwest, as I’ve mentioned, winter is an exercise in waiting – for relief, for a bird to sing, for the first purple crocus to push up through the snow. You have no choice in the meantime but to pep-talk your way through it.”

“Becoming” is a stunning book in every way. Please check it out.

Our View

Contact your elected officials before it’s too late

With a new year comes a new team of elected leaders and a list of issues for them to tackle.

Some of those issues linger from year to year, unsolved because politicians couldn’t agree, the solutions cost too much or because there’s not enough pressure from voters to find an answer.

One way individual voters can act is to contact their elected leaders. Often, those phone calls and emails only are sent when a voter is upset by an action. And sometimes that’s too late.

After the Legislature, the city council or the school board acts, it’s too late to change the policy. About all you can do is be mad. But that’s not very helpful.

To encourage early and frequent communication with your elected leaders, we’re listing their contact information and we hope you’ll share your thoughts on current issues now instead of just getting mad later.

Sartell residents elected a new mayor and two new citizens joined the City Council.

Mayor Ryan Fitzthum

Ryan.Fitzthum@sartellmn.com
320-493-5891

Council members

Mike Chisum

mike.chisum@sartellmn.com
320-492-2675

Jeff Kolb

jeff.kolb@sartellmn.com
320-266-4044

Tim Elness

Tim.Elness@sartellmn.com
612-859-0382

Brady Anel

Brady.Anel@sartellmn.com
320-217-4049

The Sartell-St. Stephen area has one new leader at the Legislature. Longtime Rep. Tim O’Driscoll is joined by newly elected Sen. Jeff Howe.

Sen. Jeff Howe

95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3231
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2084

Rep. Tim O’Driscoll

237 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn
651-296-7808

One newcomer, Amanda Byrd, joined the **Sartell-St. Stephen school board** along with re-elected members Jeremy Snoberger and Patrick Marushin.

Jason Nies - chair, 612-695-0782

Jeremy Snoberger - vice chair, 320-282-8303

Pam Raden - clerk, 320-250-0500

Amanda Byrd - treasurer, 320-241-5988

Lesa Kramer, 320-259-6303

Patrick Marushin, 612-750-2973

All the members receive email at: dist-schoolboard@sartell.k12.mn.us

By connecting with your elected officials, you can help shape the discussions and the solutions to the issues they are trying to solve on our behalf.

Constructive suggestions and opinions are much more useful in producing a satisfying solution than angry calls and emails after a final decision has been made.

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 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304. 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.

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304., e-mail it to news@thenews-leaders.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.

Ave., Sartell. Fundraiser for Lucy Ann Koehn.

Monday, Jan. 28

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

Little Sabres Preschool Open House, 5:30-7:30 p.m., School District Service Center, 21 Third Ave.

Tuesday, Jan. 29

Donate blood, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Central Minnesota Boy Scout Council, 1191 Scout Drive, Sartell. For an appointment call 800-733-2767.

Kindergarten Information Night, 5:30-6 p.m. room visits, 6-7 p.m. presentation. Oak Ridge Elementary School for families sending their first child to either Oak

history.org.

Saturday, Feb. 2

Sartell Winter Market, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

Monday, Feb. 4

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

Wednesday, Feb. 6

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

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

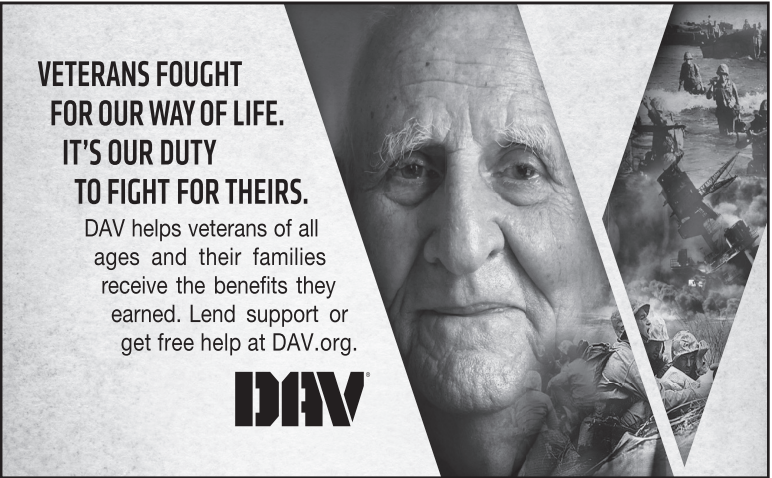
ister www.mnsafetycenter.org or 888-234-1294.

ister www.mnsafetycenter.org or 888-234-1294.

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

Housing Rehabilitation Fund-
ing Information meeting, 6 p.m.,
Sartell Community Center, 850
19th St. S., Sartell. Central Min-
nesota Housing Partnership, 320-
258-0673.

Friday, Feb. 8
Benton County Museum, 10
a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk
Rapids. 320-253-9614. [mnbenton-
history.org](http://mnbenton-history.org).



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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 tricountycrimes-toppers.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.

Jan. 9

12:10 a.m. DWI. Watab Court. A citizen noticed a vehicle stuck in a snow bank on the wrong side of the road. Officers arrived and noticed the driver showed signs of impairment. Officers arrested the driver for DWI and transported the driver to Stearns County Jail.

Jan. 10

8:30 p.m. Traffic stop. Second Street S. An officer witnessed an approaching vehicle failing to dim its high beams. After stopping the vehicle, the driver admitted to having a suspended license. The driver was cited for the driving after suspension and was given a warning for the high beams. The passenger had a valid license and was allowed to drive from there.

Jan. 11

7:45 p.m. Shoplifting. CR 120. A business reported an individual concealed items with the intention of not paying for it. When officers arrived a store employee told officers the person dropped an item believed to be methamphetamine. The individual was arrested for controlled substance and theft and transported to the Stearns County Jail.

Jan. 12

9:50 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 1. An officer on a traffic stop witnessed a vehicle pass at a high rate of speed. The officer conducted a stop and gave a verbal warning about moving over and slowing down for

emergency vehicles on the side of the road. The driver had a suspended license. The driver was issued a citation for the suspended license.

Jan. 13

6:35 p.m. Burglary. Second Street N. Several items were taken from a garage. The owner listed the property for the officers to investigate. The owner stated they believe they may have left the garage door open. Officers are investigating.

Jan. 14

2:30 p.m. School bus. First Avenue N. A school bus driver notified law enforcement that a vehicle failed to stay stopped at an intersection while the bus had the stop arm out. Officers sent a warning to the owner about failing to stop at the intersection and the requirement to wait until the stop arm is retracted.

Jan. 15

6 p.m. Warrant. Lowell Lane. Officers went to a residence to pick up an individual with an arrest warrant. Officers met with the individual at their residence and explained the warrant and took the individual into custody without incident. The individual was transported to the Stearns County Jail.

Jan. 16

11:10 p.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue S. An officer stopped a speeding vehicle. The officer found the driver did not know the correct posted speed limit and thought it higher than it was. The driver was cited for his speed.

Jan. 17

10:30 p.m. Warrant. 14th Avenue E. Officers were called by citizens about an individual who they knew had an arrest warrant from another county. Officers took the individual into custody without incident and transported

him to that county's jail.

Jan. 18

11:55 p.m. Contact violation. Second Street N. A citizen contacted police about a possible violation of a no-contact order. Officers verified a no-contact order was in place and arrested the individual violating the order. The individual was transported to Stearns County Jail.

Jan. 19

11:45 a.m. Marijuana. Seventh Street N. A citizen contacted police about a found bag of what the caller thought was marijuana. An officer arrived and took possession of the substance.

Jan. 20

1:25 p.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue S. An officer witnessed a vehicle driving with expired registration tabs. The officer stopped the vehicle and discovered the driver had a revoked license and could not produce proof of insurance for the vehicle. The officer cited the driver for multiple violations and waited for the driver to be picked up by another vehicle.

Jan. 21

10:40 a.m. Hit and run. CR 120. Officers responded to a property damage call in the parking lot of a business. Using the business's camera system, officers were able to locate who struck the vehicle and left the scene. Officers from a different county located the individual and cited the individual for failing to provide information at the scene of an accident.

Jan. 22

3:20 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 1. An officer witnessed a vehicle traveling at a higher speed than the posted speed limit. The officer conducted the stop and gave the driver a verbal warning to abide by the posted speed limits.

Engagement

Billig-Olson

Caitlin Billig, daughter of Kim and Tim Billig, Sartell, and Jake Olson, son of Mary and Scott Stevenson, Ada, recently announced their engagement. Olson is also the son of the late Dean Olson.

Billig is a 2007 graduate of Sartell High School and a 2011

graduate of St. Cloud State University with a degree in community psychology. She is employed at Human Development Center in Duluth as an administrative supervisor in the Children's Mental Health division.

Olson is a 2004 graduate of Grafton High School and attended St. Cloud State Univer-

sity. He is co-owner/operator of Superior Express Delivery in Duluth.

An outdoor ceremony will take place April 6, 2019 at Pier B Resort followed by a reception, dinner and dance for family and close friends at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center.

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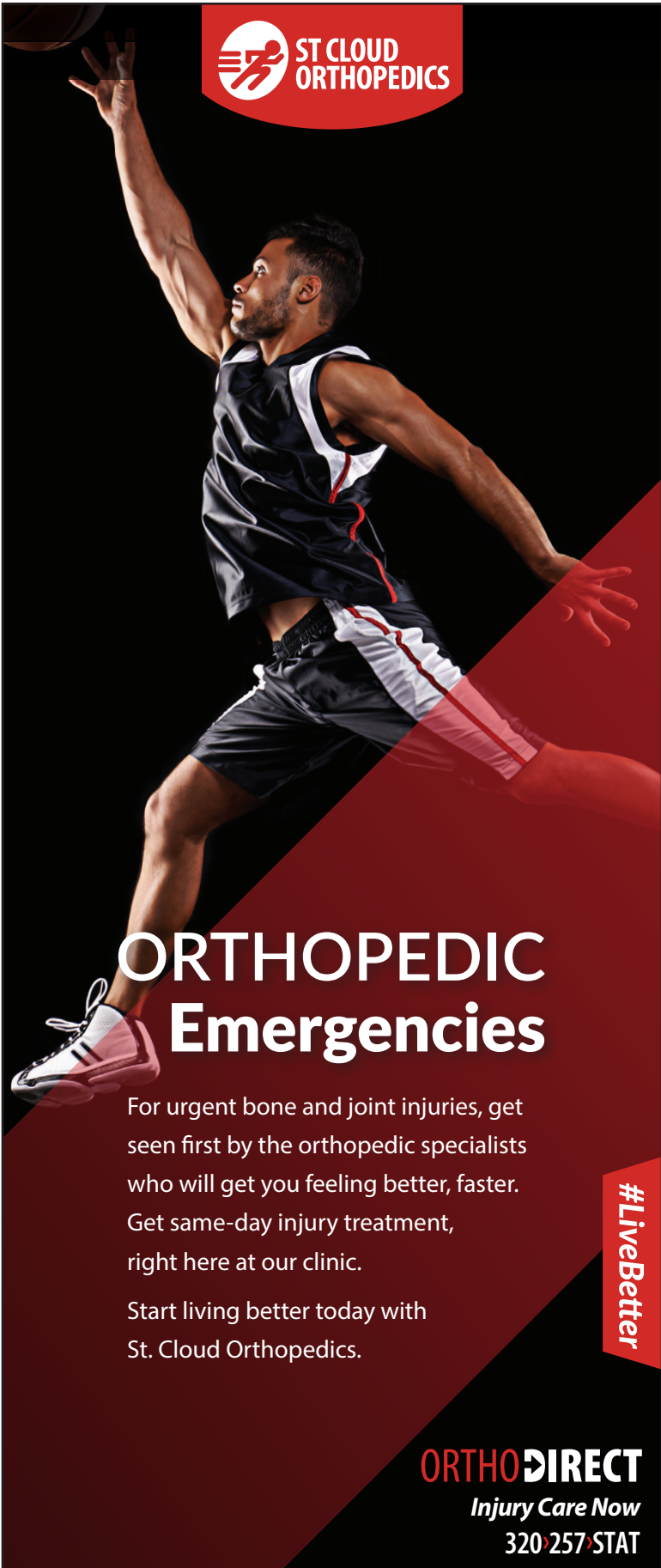
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