

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, May 3, 2019
Volume 24, Issue 9
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Taste of St. Cloud set May 6

Taste of St. Cloud, an annual fundraiser sponsored by the Franciscan Community Volunteers, a ministry of the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, will be held from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, May 6 at the St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center, 10 Fourth Ave. S., St. Cloud. The event features an array of cuisines from local restaurants as well as live entertainment and a silent auction. Meet the Franciscan Community Volunteers and see the ways they enrich the lives of people of the St. Cloud area. You'll also have an opportunity to visit many Franciscan sisters and friends.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.fcvonline.org or www.fslf.org, or by checks made payable to the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls. Please write "Taste of St. Cloud Tickets" on the memo line. Tickets will be held at the door the evening of the event under the name of the purchaser. Send checks to Franciscan Sisters, 1600 11th Ave. S., St. Cloud, Minn. 56301. For more information, contact Pat Flicker at 320-229-0307 or pflicker@fslf.org.

NEW! Summer Kickoff at Lake George

Start off your summer with St. Cloud Park and Recreation during its Summer Kickoff from 2-5 p.m. Saturday, May 18 at Lake George! Enjoy the park and an afternoon of free family fun while learning about what Park and Recreation has to offer the whole family. Activities for everyone: learn to fish, canoe and paddleboat races around the lake, plant a flower, food trucks, yard games and learn all about bike safety.

Senior Connection to host Lemonade, Laughter May 14

The Sartell Senior Connection will host its 12th annual Lemonade and Laughter, featuring sing-a-longs, skits and laughing at everyday life with the women of Creative Impressions, at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 14 at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church's Gathering Space, 219 Second St. N., Sartell.

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City of St. Stephen
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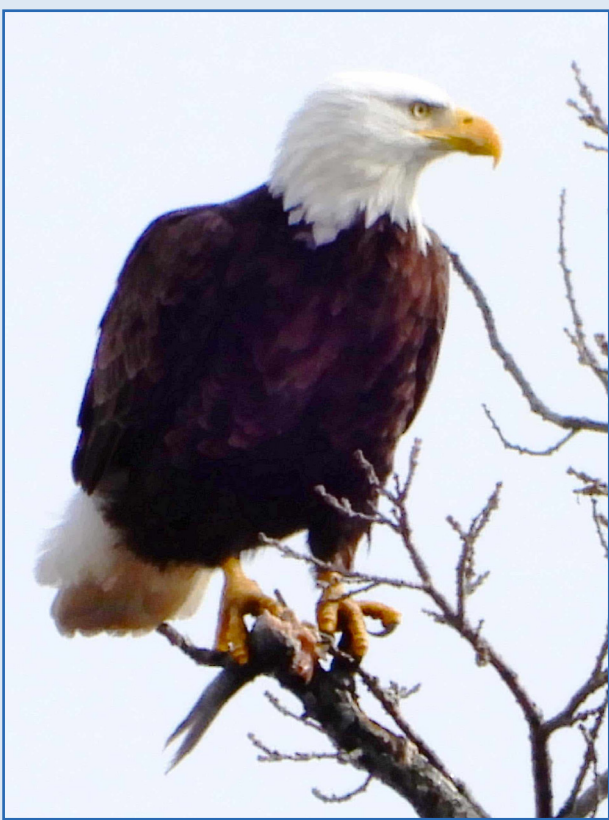


photo by Terry Crawford

Fresh catch

This eagle with its lunch rested in a tree near Windsong Apartments on Troop Drive in Sartell.

Scheels gives 'substantial' donation for ice sheet

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A long-anticipated dream – a second large ice sheet by Bernick's Arena – will now come true, thanks largely to a corporate donation from Scheels All Sports.

The announcement of Scheels' lead gift was made by the Sartell Youth Recreation Center, which has been raising funds for a second ice sheet since 2017. The substantial gift from Scheels means the SYRC now has enough to start building the year-round amenity.

The SYRC operates and maintains the Ber-

nick's Arena.

The exact amount of the gift, which has been described as "substantial," has not yet been announced.

At the April 8 Sartell City Council meeting, council members voted unanimously to allow Scheels to have naming rights, which was requested as part of the donation. The entire park in which Bernick's Arena is located, north of city hall, will be named Scheels Athletic Complex.

Chad Ritter, an SYRC board member, told the City Council at its April 8 meeting why a second ice sheet has long been needed: an in-

crease in Sartell's population, which in turn brought more hockey players and more interest in the game of hockey by players and spectators, and an increasing strain on the number of recreational spaces and athletic fields in the city – not just for hockey and other sports but for other forms of social activities, such as concerts, dances, craft fairs and more.

Before the Scheels' donation, the SYRC and the Sartell Youth Hockey Association succeeded in raising \$1.75 million, with another \$250,000 in pledges, **Donation • page 2**

Graduation rate improves to 98.2 percent

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The latest four-year high school graduation rate data shows Sartell High School outperforming districts statewide as well as surrounding schools.

Sartell's 2018 graduation rate of 98.2 percent improved slightly from 96.6 percent in 2017.

The Minnesota Department of Education released numbers

for all schools on April 23. The statewide rate of 83.2 percent was the highest on record.

"I'm really proud of what our high school and our whole district does so that all kids get a chance to graduate," Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert said. "They do it by taking care of each kid one-on-one."

Neighboring districts also posted strong scores, led by Albany with 96.9 percent, Holdingford at 93.0 percent

and Sauk Rapids-Rice at 89.9 percent.

"That says an awful lot about Central Minnesota," Schwiebert said. "We want our kids to have the chance to go on. Our parents and communities support our kids."

St. Cloud's two public high schools did not score as well with Tech's rate at 79.9 percent and Apollo at 77.4 percent.

Schwiebert said he's some-

times asked why there's a graduation party for seniors because "we expect everyone to graduate."

"We want to reward them," he said.

Sartell's rate has ranged in the mid to high 90s for the last five years.

"We do a lot of things very well," the superintendent said. "It's a constant struggle in a positive way to keep that

Rate • back page

Okee Dokes to perform cancer benefit in Sartell

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

In the three years April Myers was battling brain cancer, her most enthusiastic cheerleader was her little niece, Kylie, who gave her love and support through the surgery, the radiation, the chemotherapy, the occupational therapy, the speech therapy.

April and Kylie Myers-Schleif, who was ages 4 to 7 at the time, were known as two peas in a pod. They loved to goof around, act silly and have lots of fun.

When April, 55, died on April 12, 2018, it was heart-rending for Kylie's parents to tell her wonderful Aunt April would not be able to be at her



contributed photo

Kylie Myers-Schleif and her aunt, April Myers, were often called two peas in a pod because of their deep affection for each other.

upcoming 8th birthday party, Kylie did not – would not – understand. How could she even think of a birthday party without Aunt April?

Kylie's parents are Ruthie and Mike Myers-Schleif of Sauk Rapids. Ruthie's brother is Scott, the husband of April. They (Scott and April) have a

daughter, Megan, who is now in her mid-20s.

Now 8 years old, Kylie finally accepts Aunt April is gone, but she refuses to let go of her memory, which she and her family keep alive by joining in the fight against cancer. They have organized a benefit concert for the American Cancer Society that will take place starting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at The Waters Church in Sartell. The concert will star the Okee Dokee Brothers, a Grammy-Award-winning musical duo with background musicians. All proceeds from the concert will go to the ACS. For tickets, go to www.okeedokee.org and click on the "Shows" tab, then click on "Event De-

Benefit • page 3

Donation

from front page

Ritter noted.

“The Scheels Athletic Complex will help address this crunch the community is feeling across the board – in multiple sports,” said Ritter after hearing of the Scheels contribution.

Bernick’s Arena, which cost \$2.4 million and involved thousands of hours of work by volunteers, opened in 2003. Throughout the years, many updates and improvements were added to the arena, including purchase of a new zamboni ice machine. In 2017, the city of Sartell paid for a greatly expanded paved parking lot in a field to the east of the arena, with 283 parking spaces.

Besides being a heavily used hockey venue, the arena and its grounds are used often for nonskating events such as a farmers’ market, craft fairs, concerts and dances.

Kevin Murphy, Scheels store leader/partner for the St. Cloud store, said as a sporting goods store, the Scheels All Sports management and employees are excited to partner with SYRC.

“After thoughtful consideration and consultation with our corporate board,” said Murphy in a press release,



contributed photo

This artist's conception by HMA Architects shows what the outdoor sheet of covered ice would look like when it's built next to Bernick's Arena in Sartell.

“we decided the naming rights for the complex was a solid investment for a number of reasons . . . As business owners, we are very excited about the partnership with SYRC, the city (of Sartell) and strengthening our presence in a rapidly growing community.”

The ice sheet project will be constructed in several phases as a year-round athletic complex and entertainment venue. The ice rink will have a refrigerated concrete floor, a roof over the open-air ice sheet, stationary seating, a turf system for multiple sports and inside the Bernick’s arena a lobby overlooking the outdoor ice rink and expanded lockers.

The first phase of construction will involve the ice sheet, its infrastructure and amenities at an estimated cost of \$2.9 million. The other phases will cost \$1.1 million and \$1.3 million. Construction can begin this summer.

Scheels

Scheels All Sports began in 1902 when a German immigrant, Frederick A. Scheel, bought a home-supply and hardware store in Sabin, Minnesota, which became so successful Scheel expanded the store into other cities.

Eventually, the Scheels hardware stores began adding more and more athletic equipment until by 1989 one of the stores, in Grand Forks, North Dakota, was the first Scheels store to offer solely sporting equipment.

Scheels All Sports, which is employee-owned, now has stores at 27 locations in 13 states. The company has a policy to donate at least 10 percent of its profits to local charities and local nonprofit organizations.

The Scheel family is still very much a part of the company. Steve D. Scheel, the grandson of founder Frederick Scheel, is the company’s chairman of the board. Steve M. Scheel, the great-great-grandson of the founder, is the company’s chief executive officer.

People

Jonathan Notch from Sartell took third place in competition for heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration students at a statewide competition. He was one of several St. Cloud Technical & Community College students who competed in the SkillsUSA State Competition.

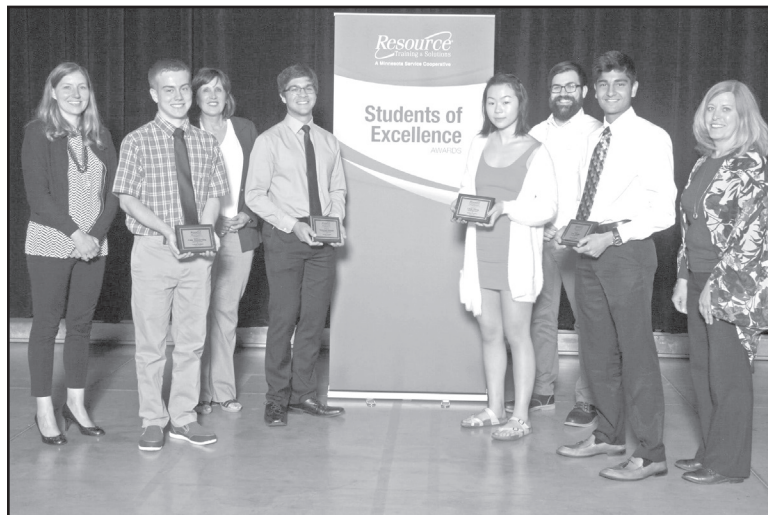
Brooke Walters of Sartell was one of the Central Minnesota female high school athletes who received an



Walters

Athena Award on May 1. The Central Minnesota Athena Awards, in its inaugural year, is a partnership between 13 area school districts, administered through St. Cloud school district. The Central Minnesota Athena Awards are new to the region and modeled after similar recognition events in the Twin Cities.

Sartell High School students were among the 139 students from 34 high schools recognized at the Students of Excellence Recognition event sponsored by Resource Training & Solutions. The event was April 24.



contributed photo

Sartell High School students and staff honored at the Students of Excellence (from left) Becky Thompson, Colin Hommerding, Brenda Steve, Mo Alkhatib, Cindy Zhang, Luke Walker, Yash Hindka and Kay Nelson.

photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Lenzens

keep the pace

Jon Lenzen, of Sartell, and son Jaeden, 7, are all smiles as they jog down the stretch of Eighth Ave. N. April 27 during the 9th Annual DeZurik 5K Walk-Run in Sartell.



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Call the Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleaders at 320-363-7741 if you would like to be in the business directory.

On-Call Shipping Assistant

Liturgical Press, located on the Saint John’s campus, has openings for (casual/on-call employment) in the shipping department. Job duties include picking and packaging product for shipping. Basic computer skills, ability to lift up to 30 pounds and the ability to stand for extended periods of time are required. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. This is an on-call position based on warehouse workload. Training will be provided.

**Applications accepted on-line only at:
<http://employmentosb.csbsju.edu>**

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

Newsleaders

Reaching Everybody!

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Country Manor
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Holiday on 7th
Holiday - Riverside
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Kwik Trip
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Sartell City Hall
School District Offices
SuperAmerica
Walgreens

www.thenewsleaders.com

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Publisher/Owner
Janelle Von Pinnon

Editor
Mike Knaak

Admin Assistant
Marlene McMullen

Designer
Nina Henne

Assignment Editor
Carolyn Bertsch

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John Herring

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.

1608 11th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304

mailing address: 1622 11th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304

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Benefit

from front page

tails” next to the listing for “May 9 Performance at The Waters Church.”

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. The food truck from Lily’s Wings, Burgers & Things will be on site so concert-goers can get a bite or two to eat. The concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. and last probably an hour. Afterward, attendees can meet the brothers and get their photos taken.

Earlier fundraising

When Kylie was in kindergarten at Mississippi Heights Middle School, the school district held its annual fundraiser, “The Walk for Life,” to raise money for the American Cancer Society. It was a cause dear to Kylie’s heart because that was the year her aunt was diagnosed with brain cancer.

Kylie’s mother asked her if she’d like to have a lemonade stand to raise money in honor of April. Kylie leaped at the chance and started the “Kylie’s Kickin’ Cancer Lemonade Stand.”

Three years later, when April died, Kylie’s parents wondered how the family could keep making an impact on the fight against the disease. They, along with Kylie, had attended several Okee Dokee Brothers concerts in this area and in the Twin Cities.

“We absolutely love their energetic, fun and family-friendly music,” Ruthie Myers-Schleif said. “I sent an email asking about a benefit concert, and their booking agent called me back and said it was a possibility. Yes, my jaw hit the floor!”

Ruthie is a former first-grade teacher at Rice Elementary School. Husband Mike teaches in the Alternative Program at McKinley School.

A force of life

Ruthie Myers-Schleif, said sister-in-law April, was an energetic force of life with a heart of gold and loved to help others. She was a housing director for the Good Shepherd Community Home in Sauk Rapids, but that was only her day job. She also did a never-ending, inexhaustible amount of volunteer-



contributed photo

April Myers (right) was honored as Grand Marshal of the Sauk Rapids River Days Parade in 2016 when she was named the city’s Citizen of the Year. Widely lauded and appreciated for her love of people and for volunteering, Myers died in 2018 of brain cancer. At left is her husband, Scott, with daughter Megan in the middle.

ing – at Good Shepherd and many other places. She loved to “give back,” as she called it, so much so that in 2016 she was named Sauk Rapids Citizen of the Year.

Her energy extended to a deep love of bicycling, and every year she took a week-long bike trip in Minnesota.

“She knew so many people!” Ruthie said. “After she was diagnosed with brain cancer, I would take her sometimes to appointments, and we would go to eat afterward. And she would start talking and making friends with anyone, everyone. When we’d go to Coborn’s she’d see so many people she knew that we’d be in that store a long time.”

April, Ruthie noted, was one of those people others just love at first meeting.

“Her favorite activity – or one of them – was decorating for Christmas,” Ruthie recalled. “At Good Shepherd, she would decorate 10 trees every Christmas season, and every single decoration had to be placed on a tree just so, just perfectly. She was very, very meticulous about that.”

Ruthie said she and her family will continue helping in the fight against cancer, always with April in mind.

“We’re not giving up,” she said. “Like April, we need to continue to ‘give back’ and so helping raise money against cancer is how we’re going to give back – in memory of her.”

Okee Dokees

The Okee Dokee Brothers are not biological brothers, although in their long-time love of adventure and music-making they might as well be brothers, if not twins.

Their names are Joe Mailander (acoustic guitar, vocals) and Justin Lansing (vocals, banjo). As childhood friends, they grew up in the Denver area, enjoying adventurous treks and journeys. They now live in Minneapolis.

They write their own songs. Three times they were nominated for a Grammy Award in the category of Best Children’s Album, and in 2013 they took home the award for the CD entitled “Can You Canoe?”

Their latest CD, called “Winterland,” has received warm reviews for its evocations of the enjoyments of winter weather and lots of snow, something many Minnesotans – at least after this winter – might not warm up to quite as quickly as the music reviewers.

Their music, often whimsical and gently funny, is a mixture of bluegrass, folk, storybook style – performed often in a sing-along-style, involving the audience from song to song.

Lansing and Mailander often take long treks (Appalachian Trail, Western Canyon Country, Mississippi River journey from Minnesota to St. Louis). Those adventures inspire the songs they write and perform to delighted audiences far and wide.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Sartell-St. Stephen ISD 748

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Notice is hereby given that Sartell-St. Stephen ISD 748

Requests proposals for:

Group Medical Insurance

Specifications will be available from the District’s Agent of Record, National Insurance Services, at 14852 Scenic Heights Rd Suite 210, Eden Prairie, MN 55344, phone 800-627-3660.

Proposals are due no later than 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 31, 2019 to Sartell-St. Stephen ISD 748, District Service Center, 212 Third Avenue North, Sartell, MN 56377 and a copy to National Insurance Services, at 14852 Scenic Heights Rd Suite 210, Eden Prairie, MN 55344, or as specified in the RFP.

Publish: May 3 and 17, 2019

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Resource Training & Solutions, District 0923, requests proposals for group insurance coverage for the health plan year beginning Oct. 1, 2019. Sealed proposals will be accepted in paper form until 5 p.m. CST on Wednesday, June 17, 2019 at Resource Training & Solutions, Attn: Julie Toole, 137 23rd St. S., Sartell, Minn. 56377. Copies of the request for proposal and exhibits may be requested from Julie Toole, jtoole@resourcecoop-mn.gov and will be sent electronically at no charge. District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities. District reserves the right to select the proposal which it determines to be in the best interest of the District.

Publish: May 3 and 17, 2019

PUBLIC NOTICE GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS

Notice is hereby given this 15th day of May, 2019, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 18.83, subd. 7, (1992), that all persons in Stearns County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they own, occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method but the methods may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with the individual notice will mean that the inspector having jurisdiction may either hire the work done or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If the work is hired done by the inspector, the cost can be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected. You may obtain a list of the plants that are designated noxious and of the members of the appeal committee from your County Agricultural Inspector or Local Weed Inspector. The Local Weed Inspectors are township supervisors, city mayors or their appointed assistants.

Bob Dunning
Stearns County Agricultural Inspector
P.O. Box 246, St. Cloud, MN Phone 320-255-6180

Publish: May 3, 2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE FOR FIVE-YEAR CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given that the Stearns County Department of Highways will consider a Five-Year Highway Construction Program using federal funds, state aid funds, and local funds at a meeting to be held in the Stearns County Public Works Building, located at 455 28th Avenue South, Waite Park, MN., on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Publish: May 9, 2019

Mother’s Day SALE

Craft-Vendor-Bake-Massage-Make
Overs- Jewelry Sale

Saturday, May 11
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Waite Park American Legion
17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park

Children ages 4+ can make a Mother’s Day card/craft while parent is in the building shopping the sale

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Sartell doctor launches new health-care model

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A Sartell doctor is trying to trail-blaze a new model for health care by actually taking a few steps backward.

Dr. Cody Wendlandt owns Sartell Family Medicine, Minnesota's only pure direct patient care clinic. Wendlandt is upsetting the current business model of insurance-driven patient care by providing preventive care and spending more time getting to know his patients.

He and his colleagues opened their clinic at 2151 Troop Drive in October.

They don't take health insurance but instead charge patients a monthly membership fee that covers basic services and office visits with modest fees for additional treatments.

Wendlandt says his clinic is attractive to people with extremely high deductibles or no insurance.

"We go back to the old-school style of medicine between a physician and patient," Wendlandt said.

Without the cost of insurance-driven paperwork and documentation, he can charge less.

Appointments can be longer...typically 30 to 60 minutes...because he doesn't make money by seeing the most patients but instead by keeping

them healthy so they don't need expensive treatments.

"I make more money when my patients are healthy and stay out of the clinic," he said. "When I have them see me, it's gonna be a half hour to an hour and get them healthy."

A monthly individual membership is \$50 and a family membership is \$300. The fee covers unlimited office visits and services such as school and sports physicals, screening tests, stitches and treatments for conditions such as colds, flu and sore throats. Examples of the additional fees include \$5 for mono and strep testing and \$15 for cholesterol testing.

Patients are also welcome to call the clinic at any time with a question or concern and they'll get a doctor on the line, not an answering machine. A prompt answer can save a parent with a sick child an expensive and possibly unnecessary trip to the emergency room or urgent care.

Sartell Family Medicine also accepts patients who are not members for office visits.

Direct primary care is a relatively new concept. Studies have shown it provides better health outcomes through better access to physicians and lower transparent costs. The model creates a better provider-patient experience. Lowering the administrative burden allows for longer office visits.



photo by Mike Knaak
Dr. Cody Wendlandt sits in one of the exam rooms at Sartell Family Medicine.

Patients still need presumably high-deductible health insurance to cover specialists and hospital stays.

In addition to medical services, the clinic also offers opiate-addiction treatment, medical cannabis certification and mental-health counseling and therapy.

The clinic team includes Wendlandt, another doctor, a physician assistant, a mental health coordinator, three nurses and a medical assistant.

Wendlandt completed his University of Minnesota residency with a program at St. Cloud Hospital with a focus on rural medicine, emergency-room treatment and obstetrics.

Wendlandt grew up in Hutchinson where he remembers just his family doctor, not a team of specialists and that's the relationships he's trying to create.

"I'm being a trailblazer and trying to educate the public about direct patient care," he said. "There's going to be a lot of thankful physicians in three to five years when they can focus on medicine, not paperwork."

St. Stephen Fire Department marks 70 years

This year marks the 70th anniversary of St. Stephen Fire & Rescue. Retired and active firefighters, spouses and family members gathered in the Parish Hall on April 6, the site of the reason the fire department exists. St. Stephen Fire & Rescue was started in 1949 after the church Parish Hall caught fire and was destroyed in 1948.

During the gathering, Peter Schumer, a third-generation firefighter received his badge. Before the evening closed, Peter posed

with the last living charter member of the fire department, Ben Supan, 92.

Retired Firefighter Aaron Rudolph was honored for his 21 years of service. Retired firefighter Rodger Bellinger was honored for his 20 years of service.

Firefighter Joe Gordon received a Life Saving Award for his direct response to a call on Feb. 26. Gordon performed CPR and the patient began breathing again.



contributed photo
Firefighter Joe Gordon (right) received a Life Saving Award for his direct response to a call on Feb. 26. Gordon performed CPR and the patient began breathing again. Gordon received his award from Mayor and Assistant Chief II Jeff Blenkush.



contributed photo
Peter Schumer (left), a third-generation firefighter, received his badge with the last charter member of the fire department, Ben Supan, 92.

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.

April 17
3:50 p.m. Traffic stop. First Street NE. An officer witnessed a speeding. When attempting to stop, the vehicle turned into a parking lot. The driver of the vehicle admitted to speeding to the officer and only had an instruction permit. The officer issued a citation for both infractions.

April 18
1:40 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 1. Officers stopped a vehicle with no taillights on a trailer. Officers were given a false name initially. The driver of the vehicle was detained and it was discovered the driver had arrest warrants. Upon search the individual had a hypodermic needle in his pocket. The driver was arrested for the warrants and cited for giving a false name, driving after cancellation and the possession of a hypodermic needle.

April 19
5:40 p.m. Staff. CR 1. Officers saw a vehicle stalled on the side of the road. The driver of the vehicle stated the battery had died and a new battery was on the way. The officer stayed behind the vehicle with lights for safety until the battery arrived.

April 20
1:20 a.m. Intoxicated person. Seventh Avenue S. Officers were called to a residence about an intoxicated individual. The individual told officers he was attempting to walk home from the bar and got lost. Because of his intoxication level and not being able to find someone to care for the individual, officers transported the individual to the hospital.

April 21
7:25 p.m. Indecent exposure. CR 1. An officer witnessed an individual urinating on the side of the road. Officers stopped and the individual admitted what he was doing. The individual gave the officer a false name. When searched, the individual was in possession of hypodermic needles. The individual was arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail for the indecent exposure, giving a false name and being in possession of hypodermic needles.

April 22
1:55 p.m. Warrant. River Oaks Lane. Officers working with Benton County Sherriff's Office were asked to locate an individual in Sartell that had a warrant for their arrest. Officer located the individual at a residence and was allowed in by the homeowner. Officers took the individual into custody without incident.

April 23
8:50 a.m. Animals. Seventh Street N. Officers were notified about abandoned cats left in an apartment. Officers notified city maintenance. City maintenance workers picked up the cats.

April 24
11:20 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 1. An officer saw a vehicle displaying white light to the rear at a stop light. A license-plate check revealed the owner had an arrest warrant. The officer stopped the vehicle and found the driver to be the owner. The individual was arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail.

April 25
9:30 a.m. Warrant. CR 120. An officer noticed a vehicle with an advertisement plate without temporary tags. Conducting a check of the vehicle showed the owner had multiple arrest warrants. Officers waited for the individual to return to the vehicle and arrested the individual for the warrants.

April 26
10:15 p.m. Juvenile party. Peddle

Creek Drive. Officers were dispatched to a call involving minors consuming alcohol. Officers arrived and witnessed multiple underage individuals with several open containers of alcohol. Citations were issued and the individuals' parents were called. Parents of the minors who consumed alcohol arrived to take them home.

April 27
11:50 p.m. Traffic stop. Second Street S. An officer conducted a license and learned one owner with a canceled license and another owner with a suspended license. The officer stopped the vehicle and identified the driver as the owner with the suspended license. The officer issued a citation for the infraction and a valid driver arrived to drive the vehicle.

April 28
1:05 a.m. Driver assist. Second Street S. An officer witnessed a vehicle stopped in the lane of traffic. The officer stopped and investigated. The driver of the vehicle was lost. The officer gave the driver directions to his destination and warned him it would be safer to pull over to the side of the road next time.

April 29
7:40 p.m. Drive off. Pinecone Road S. Officers were dispatched to a call of a vehicle drive off. Officers spoke with the complainant and he told the officers it was a mistake, the individuals were regular customers and complainant said he would deal with it civilly.

April 30
8:30 a.m. Property damage. Ninth Avenue N. Officers were dispatched to a call regarding what appeared to be a bullet hole in the side of their house. Officers recovered a bullet from the siding. Officers spoke with the owner of the adjacent property about hunters that use the woods between the properties and how as the owner he is liable for damages that occur.

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Intermediate school name voting begins May 13

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

When the Sartell school district is done with its plan to reconfigure grades and schools, third- through fifth-graders will enter a school with a new name.

In fall 2020, the current middle school will be their home and a new name will replace the "3-5 building" tag informally used by staff and administrators.

Starting on May 13, students, staff, parents and community members will have a chance to vote on three names selected from a naming process that began in last November.

The three names are:

Mississippi Mills Intermediate School.

Riverview Intermediate School.

Watab River Intermediate School.

Zach Dingmann, currently an assistant principal at Sartell Middle School, is slated to be the intermediate school principle. He headed up a project to come up with a name.

"We created a process for all to have a voice – students, staff, the community," Dingmann said.

Having a name that grew from a common effort will help build a sense of community when children who are now in different buildings come together, Dingmann said.

In the classrooms, the naming exercise went beyond just brainstorming. The teachers created a lesson about how buildings and other objects get named. History, geography, location and vision all shape how a building is named, students

learned.

For example, Dingmann said, the vision for the intermediate school will be community connections and an environmental focus with hands-on learning.

The committee collected about 70 names submitted by classes at the end of the naming lesson and from staff. Those names were narrowed to six and then to the final three.

Voting will take place online through a link on the district's website as well as a link for students and staff available through their portals. Paper ballots will be available at each building for people who don't want to vote online.

Voting will end May 24, but the winning name won't be revealed until an event next fall.

"It will be exciting to get everyone involved," Dingmann said.

St. Stephen Steves set baseball schedule

The St. Stephen Steves baseball team of the Victory League set its 2019 schedule.

May 5: 1:30 p.m. at Avon

May 12: 1:30 p.m. St. Wendel Home

May 15: 6:30 p.m. Luxemburg Home exhibition

May 18: 7:30 p.m. at Freeport

May 26: 1:30 p.m. at St. Mathias

May 27: 1:30 p.m. at St. Wendel

May 31: 7:30 p.m. at Sartell Muskies

June 1: 5 p.m. St. Stephen Tournament

June 1: TBA St. Stephen Tournament

June 9: 1:30 p.m. Opole Home



June 15: 1:30 p.m. Fort Ripley Home

June 16: 1:30 p.m. at Aitkin

June 23: 1:30 p.m. at Opole

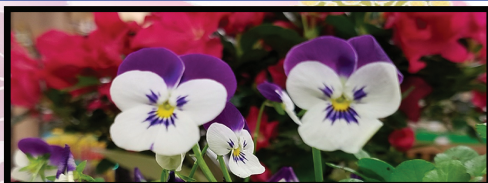
June 26: 6:15 p.m. at St. Augusta

June 30: 1:30 p.m. Avon Home

July 6: 1:30 p.m. Freeport Home

Divisional playoffs begin on July 13.

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Council approves \$1.1-million platform fire truck

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

When the new Public Safety Facility hosts its grand opening in 2020, there will be more than just a brand-new state-of-the-art building to wow the visitors. One of the stars of the show will be a spanking-new fire department platform truck. The Sartell City Council, at its April 22 meeting, approved the purchase of the truck, which will cost up to \$1,117,000. Money for the truck will come from the city’s Fire Equipment Fund, said Sartell City Administrator Mary Degiovanni. Ground has been broken for the eagerly-awaited Sartell Public Works Facility along Pinecone Road. It will be the new home for both the city’s fire department and its police department. The platform truck is expected to be delivered to the city by

December 2020. The technical name of the giant machine is an “E-One Cyclone III HP100 Aerial Platform Fire Truck.” Its manufacturer is Fire Safety U.S.A. Inc. of Rochester. A platform truck, which carries a retractable long hydraulic extension arm with a bucket, is vital in some rescue emergencies and in fighting fires in homes or buildings that are tall. That has concerned the members of the Sartell City Council for years as buildings and apartment complexes in the city began to be built taller and taller, some as high as four stories. The new platform truck will replace one of the current ladder trucks, which means the city won’t have to replace a ladder truck with another ladder truck. The council voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the truck.



contributed photo
This is a platform truck, similar to the one the Sartell Fire Department will have come December 2020.

Sartell receives rave review for financial audit

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Once again, as in years before, the city of Sartell received rave reviews for its annual audit, which was presented to the city council at its April 22 meeting. The presenter of the 2018 audit report was Steve Wis-

chmann of the auditing firm of BerganKDV. Wischmann used many superlatives during his presentation: the highest level of assurance for the city’s financial statements, consistency, excellent job, a very good balance of revenue and expenditures, right in line with budgeted expecta-

tions, high degree of expertise in managing the budget. Wischmann singled out for praise Sartell Financial Director Heidi Ostlie and City Administrator Mary Degiovanni. He said they cooperated with efficient professionalism in getting all the financial data to the auditing firm. The audit began in

March, and its completion was expedited much quicker than usual because of the city staff’s thorough timeliness. “It went very, very well,” he said. The controls of the budget, he said, “are very, very good, but not perfect.” But Wischmann quickly added that in

his 23 years of auditing he has yet to see a system of “perfect controls.” Sartell, he said, can be very proud of its financial management, which he said “compares very favorably” to those of other area cities.

Council votes yes for performance patio at Lake Francis

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A performance patio will be built at the edge of Lake Francis near the Community Center after the Sartell City Council approved the amenity at its April 22 meeting. Ever since the planning began for the center, council members and others had wanted some kind of stage, amphitheater or dock landing to be part of the project. A performance patio is a slab of concrete in open air with an awning roof above it. The one at Lake Francis will be about 1,000 square feet. It was designed by Miller Architects and Builders whose subcontracting bids total about \$175,000. That amount is \$25,000 below the initial estimate for the project.



Artist's conception of the performance patio at Lake Francis.

Center. People could also enjoy picnics under its shade. Even in the colder months, it could be used as a meeting place for winter events, such as the popular Country Lights Festival, which began at Lake Francis two years ago, to great success. During discussion of the performance stage, Sartell Mayor

Ryan Fitzthum said the festival attracted 5,000 people on one night in December. “People can hang out on it (the patio),” Fitzthum said. “It will be a good amenity with low-cost maintenance. And maybe they can find a way to deter geese from hanging out on the patio.”

Council member Mike Chisum questioned the need for such a patio, which, he claimed, would only get any real use in the warm months. It might be better to spend the money on an amenity within the Community Center – an amenity people could use year-round.

“I was hoping to consider a variety of options,” he said. Joe Seifert of Miller Architects and Builders was present at the April 22 council meeting to answer questions. He said construction of the patio, scheduled for mid-May, will take about six weeks to complete.

Opinion

Our View

Minnesotans last to agree on election security

Minnesota usually shows up near the top, if not No. 1, in rankings of the states. But on the urgent issue of election security, Minnesota is dead last.

Despite pledges of bipartisanship for this legislative session, Democrats and Republicans are deadlocked over how to spend a potential \$6 million to improve election security.

Minnesota is the only state that has yet to touch its share of the \$380 million federal appropriations.

Senators and representatives should agree to a plan from Secretary of State Steve Simon to use the money to upgrade the state's 15-year-old voter system.

"Election security shouldn't be a partisan issue or a bargaining chip," Gov. Tim Walz said. "It's time we join every other state in the nation and protect our elections."

The Democrat-controlled house passed Simon's plan while the Republican-led Senate only wants to spend \$1.5 million.

Both houses have appointed members to a conference committee to resolve the issue.

Minnesota Republicans, like their colleagues in Washington, D.C., are obsessed with what they perceive as voter fraud. They want measures that actually suppress voter turnout, such as voter photo ID, instead of tackling hacking.

The Republicans' repeated claims of widespread voter fraud have been repeatedly debunked by neutral studies. But they continue to insist people not eligible to vote, or voting in multiple locations, are swinging elections.

Instead of focusing on election myths, the Republicans should pay attention to facts.

Russians targeted Minnesota and 20 other states in what special counsel Robert Mueller's report, released April 18, called a "sweeping and systematic fashion."

The report reaffirms what national security professionals have concluded for almost three years. Just last week, FBI Director Christopher Wray said "We are very much viewing 2018 as just kind of a dress rehearsal for the big show in 2020. That is not just an election cycle threat, it's pretty much a-365-days a year threat. And that has absolutely continued."

Former Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer chairs the Senate committee on elections. Kiffmeyer, a Republican from Big Lake and a longtime supporter of voter ID laws, isn't worried about hacking.

"People are being hacked all the time," Kiffmeyer told the Star Tribune. "You're being hacked all the time, I am. This is no big thing."

Sen. Jeff Howe (R-Rockville) joined Kiffmeyer on the conference committee. Central Minnesotans should urge him to push back against Kiffmeyer's foolish stand.

Cybersecurity experts say Minnesota's use of paper ballots makes it all but impossible for hackers to change votes. But officials are more concerned by the potential for hackers to sow discord by manipulating voter rolls and casting doubt on the American election process.

Time is running out.

The Legislature should act to secure the integrity of the election system.

"I would hate to get to the point where any Minnesota voter withheld their vote because they were worried about the security of the vote or the accuracy of the results," Simon said. "And that's the real worry here."

Time to move on from retelling Wetterling story

Sometimes you just have to say "It's time to move on."

The plan for a film to examine the Jacob Wetterling abduction is one of those times.

For three years, the producers have filmed key players in the 1989 abduction, including Jacob's family.

Now they have launched a fundraising campaign to support the next stage of production.

They started a GoFundMe (www.gofundme.com/jacobfilm) site and they've planned a series of events around Minnesota with a goal of raising \$60,000 to edit the footage. An event to preview the trailer will be held at 6 p.m. Monday, May 6 at Bad Habit Brewing in St. Joseph. Tickets cost \$10 and are available at www.jacobwetterlingfilm.com/trailer-release-parties.html.

When I supervised reporters and they would pitch story ideas, I would always ask "How does what you are proposing advance the story and increase readers' understanding?" Would the results justify the time spent reporting and the readers' time reading?

That question needs to be

Mike Knaak
Editor



asked of the filmmakers.

I covered the Wetterling story for 29 years, starting on the October Sunday night he was abducted through last fall's release of almost 42,000 pages of investigative documents.

In those years, millions of words have been written and perhaps thousands of hours of video have examined every aspect of the case, including in-depth interviews with Jacob's parents, St. Joseph community members and law enforcement officers.

The most compelling journalism about the case, the botched investigation and its impact on the community is American Public Media's award-winning podcast series "In the Dark."

The film documentary team began its work in 2015 before Danny Heinrich, who would eventually admit to Jacob's abduction and killing, was arrested for possessing child pornography.

Thumbs up for 'hands-free' law


Following protracted negotiations between the Minnesota House and Senate, a new law banning the use of cell phones in cars except for if they are being used "hands-free" was voted on recently. Passed by large numbers of both Democrats and Republicans, it was signed into law by Governor Walz, and will now take effect in August. So what does this bill cover and what are the penalties in place for breaking it?

First, some background. For years, distracted driving has long been a major hazard on the roads. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 3,186 people were killed by distracted driving in the United States in 2017. The Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety also states it's a factor for one in five crashes in our state every year. We have all seen someone who is on their phone or otherwise not paying attention to the road while driving.

Spurred by dozens of family members of Minnesotans who have died from this behavior, the Legislature got to work on drafting a law to combat distracted driving, specifically that from cell phones. While Minnesota already has laws on the books banning texting, emailing and using the internet in your car, this law now goes even further.

As of Aug. 1, it will now be illegal in Minnesota to be using your phone in your hands or holding it up to your ear while

Connor Kockler
Guest Writer



driving. Anyone who wants to use their phone must either put it on speakerphone, use a hands-free device such as the ones built into many new cars, or a cell-phone mount. For other functions, you can still use your phone's GPS or listen to music or audio as long as it is already started and you are not interacting with the phone while you are operating the car, which includes while you are stopped. Emergency calls are an allowable exception.

If you are wondering what the penalties are for violating the new law, they are as follows. A first offense will cost \$50, while additional offenses will be ticketed \$275. While these penalties are not as steep as they could be in my opinion, I hope they will serve as enough of a deterrent for drivers to follow the new rules.

As someone who has been driving for only a few years, these rules don't seem too daunting to adjust to. I remember when I first got my license and the additional rules that applied to me then. One of these was a complete prohibition on using cell phones in a car while driving until reaching the age of 18.

As part of a plea agreement, on Sept. 1, 2016, Heinrich led investigators to Jacob's burial site outside Paynesville. Heinrich killed Jacob hours after the abduction.

During Heinrich's day in court, he revealed many of the heart-breaking details that had been unanswered for decades.

In addition to telling the tale, the filmmakers said they hope to start crucial conversations to end the abuse and exploitation of children.

That's a noble goal. But there are other ways to reach it. Try giving to one of the many nonprofits such as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children or the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center.

Or you can support law enforcement and legislative efforts to arrest and prosecute sex traffickers and identify sexual predators.

And you can talk with your own children about how to stay safe by speaking instead of feeling shame and keeping silent.

It's time to move on from retelling a story that's shadowed Central Minnesotans for 30 years.

So while these rules are new for all drivers, they are certainly not unprecedented and not as strict as those in place for under 18 drivers.

Though this law could be seen by some as a further invasion of liberties by the government, I believe it's an absolutely necessary measure in order to take more steps to reduce the needless deaths caused by distracted driving. I have seen far too many stories in the news of people whose lives were tragically cut short by a distracted driver or by their own behavior behind the wheel. It becomes even more disturbing when some of those who died were younger than myself.

Going into the summer, when many of us will be going up north or on road trips, it's more important than ever we drive safe, to protect ourselves and others. With this new hands-free driving law and more awareness, we can do our part to reduce driving fatalities in our state. Though not being able to hold your phone up to your ear while driving may be an inconvenience, the downsides of this law are far outweighed by its upsides. Keeping Minnesotans alive is more important than being able to use a phone in the car.

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

Community Calendar

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.

Friday, May 3
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

Monday, May 6
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.
Sartell Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., upstairs of Blue Line Sports Bar andGrill, 1101 Second St. S., Sartell. 320-267-2591.

Tuesday, May 7
Memory Writers group devel-ops topics and turns in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.

Wednesday, May 8
Stearns History Museum Breakfast Club, 9 a.m., featuring Robert Kunkel, author of “Walking Point: A Vietnam Memoir,” who will talk about his war experience and the reaction he received upon his return, Stearns History Muse-um, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud.
Bike to School Day, 2:30-5 p.m., Lion’s Park, 1030 First St. N., Sartell.

Thursday, May 9
Coffee and Conversation, a se-nior discussion group, with speak-ers Lisa Larges and Rita Weste from State Services for the Blind, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

Benefit concert for the Amer-ican Cancer Society in memory of April Myer, feauring the Okee

Dokee Brothers, 6:30 p.m., The Waters Church, 1227 Pinecone Road N.

Rainbow Support Evening, 7-9 p.m., St. Benedicdt’s Monas-tery. Parents, allies and friends of GLBTQ+ persons gather to share stories, pray and support each other. Confidentiality maintained. https://sbm.osb.org/event/rain-bow-support-evening-2/

Le Sauk Township Board, 7 p.m., Town Hall, 220 Fourth Ave. S., Sartell.

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

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

Saturday, May 11
Mother’s Day Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.
Central Minnesota Chapter of

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

Monday, May 13
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

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

Tuesday, May 14
Sartell Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., Waters Church, 1227 Pinecone Road. 320-258.6061. info@sartellchamber.com.

Central Minnesota Civil War Rountable, 3 p.m. Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave., S., St. Cloud. “Pook Turtles: The Missis-sippi River Squadron Campaign” with George Romano.

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

National Alliance on Mental

Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Com-munity Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. The group helps parents raising a child with mental illness learn coping skills and de-velop problem-solving skills. 320-654-1259.

Brockway Township Board, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 43710 85th Ave. N.

Thursday, May 16
Coffee and Conversation, a se-nior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sar-tell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Speaker is Adam Hjelm, Sauk River Watershed, Landscap-ing with Local and Native Plants.

Friday, May 17
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

Saturday, May 18
Community meal, 11:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S. Free.

Bike-to-School Day set for May 8

A celebration for Bike-to-School Day will take place from 2:30-5 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at Lions Community Park in Sartell. The purpose of the event is to check bicycles for safety and for children (and people of all ages) to have some recreation and so-cial fun.

The park is at 1030 First St. N. Children should bring their own bicycles for free tune-ups, a free bicycle obstacle course and bike rodeo.

There will also be free food, including hot dogs, snacks and

beverages. Children will be able to have fun in a bounce house and play lawn games.

A bike giveaway drawing will give one girl’s bike and one boy’s bike to the lucky winners.

At the event will be a fire truck, a police car and Metrobus vehicles.

About a dozen sponsors – lo-cal businesses and organizations – contributed to make the event possible.

In case of rain, the event will be canceled.



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Rate

from front page

level of expectations. We keep working hard to make things go well or they will go away. It's been a long tradition of making sure our kids do well with parents and community support."

The Department of Education reported statewide rates increased for all racial/ethnic groups as well as English

learners, students receiving special education services and students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals.

The gap between white and nonwhite students reduced by 15 percent since 2014.

The U.S. Department of Education approved the state's plan for increasing graduation rates, which set a goal of 90 percent of Minnesota's students graduating in four years by 2020.



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OPEN HOUSE
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Friday, May 17

OLD GLORY RUN

A SALUTE TO THOSE WHO SERVE

ST. JOSEPH, MN | MAY 18, 2019



photos by Carolyn Bertsch

Spring cleaning
Some Boy Scouts helped with the annual Lions Spring Cleanup Event April 27 in the Sartell Middle School parking lot. They are (left to right) Matthew Dietz, 14; Grant Clark, 13; and Luke Hintgen, 14, all of Sartell.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Lions members Mike DeLuca (left) and Cody Hauser, both of Sartell, assess a trailer filled with unwanted items at the April 27 Lions Cleanup Event in the Sartell Middle School parking lot.

Saturday, May 18, 2019 St. Joseph, MN

8:30 am-Opening Ceremony
9:00 am- 5k Run/Walk/Wheel
10:00 am- Kids 1k Fun Run
11:00 am- Awards Ceremony

****Family fun event for all****

Variety of vendors on site.

Registration & Sponsorship information at:
WWW.THEOLDGLORYRUN.COM

Attention parents of 2019 graduates

Parents of 2019 grads, please be aware your student should have received an email from the school with a link to an online form to collect bio information to be included in the 2019 Grad Tab publishing in the May 31 edition of the Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader. Deadline to submit these forms is Friday, May 3. Please check in with your student to ensure they turn the information in in a timely manner. Home-schooled students or those attending schools other than Sartell High School are also encouraged to submit their name, parents' names, school they're graduating from and future plans to be included separately in the May 31 edition.