



Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

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Town Crier

Raden golf tournament planned for July 25

The Scott M. Raden Memorial Golf Tournament is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 25 at Blackberry Ridge, 3125 Clubhouse Road, Sartell. The tournament celebrates the legacy of Scott Raden. All proceeds go to Sartell golf teams and the ALS Association. www.scottraden-memorialgolftournament.org.

Unity Spiritual Center to host pet blessing

The sixth annual Unity Spiritual Pet Blessing is scheduled for 10 a.m. Sunday, July 14, at 931 Fifth Ave. N., Sartell. All people and animals are welcome.

Mississippi restoration event set July 20

A restoration project to improve the Mississippi River will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, July 20 at Talahi Woods (near Riverside Park). As part of Minnesota Public Radio's Water Month, MPR personalities, hosts and staff welcomes members, listeners and the community to volunteer working side-by-side to remove invasive species and plant native grasses. This free event is family friendly. All necessary supplies including water, gloves, shovels, T-shirts and a light breakfast, snacks and lunch will be provided. To register, visit greatrivergreening.org/events/volunteer-with-grg-mpr/

Senior Games volunteers needed

Athletes 50 years of age and older will compete in more than 20 sports on Aug. 1-4 in the St. Cloud area. Volunteers will be needed at a variety of events during the games. Each volunteer will receive a 2019 Minnesota Senior Games T-shirt and those who sign up for two or more shifts will be entered to win a \$100 Visa gift card. Visit mnseniorgames.com to volunteer or email rsvp.msg@ci.stcloud.mn.us.

Country Manor seeks outing, excursion assistant

Volunteers assist staff at Country Manor in taking small groups of residents into the community for various activities. A volunteer's primary responsibility while on the outings is to pair up with a resident and help push their wheelchair. Examples of outings include going out to lunch, shopping, fishing, special holiday events and bowling. Contact Casaundra, Country Manor campus volunteer coordinator, at 320-253-1920 or chein@countrymanorcampus.org.

Police specialist honored

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Kelly Hanson, communications specialist for the Sartell Police Department, was the recipient of not one – but two – awards for excellence at the July 8 City Council meeting.

The honors were presented by Sartell Police Chief Jim Hughes, who delivered bouquets of praise for Hanson's longtime work for the department.

One award, the "Circle of Excellence," is from the Professional Law Enforcement Assistants Association, which promotes high degrees of skill and efficiency for staff members who support law-enforcement agencies.

Award • page 3



photo by Mike Knaak

Summer swinging

The Riverside Jazz trombone section plays during the band's concert July 9 at Val Smith Park. The trombonists are (from left) Gabe Fern, Lowell Larson, Chris O'Connell and Peter Olson. Olson also serves as the group's conductor.

Bernick's arena to host Hockeyville check presentation, community 'thank you'

A \$10,000 check for rink upgrades at Bernick's Arena will be presented Tuesday, July 16, after Sartell's runner-up finish in the Kraft Hockeyville competition.

Bernick's Arena was the only Minnesota arena to advance as a finalist.

To thank the community for support in the contest, there will be free pizza, hot dogs, chips and beverages from 6 to 6:45 p.m. followed by the check presentation at 7 p.m.

The food will be provided by House of Pizza, Coborn's, Kraft and Bernick's.

Kraft Hockeyville is an annual competition sponsored by Kraft Foods, the National Hockey League and the NHL Players' Association in which communities compete to demonstrate their commitment to hockey.

"The passion for hockey in this community is like none I have ever seen," Sartell Youth Hockey Association Board President and Assistant High School Coach Cory Oberg said in a press release. "This passion is fueled by active associ-

Hockey • back page



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.

Sartell woman takes silver at Senior Games

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Violet Halverson returned to the medal winners stand, this time for a Silver Medal at the National Senior Games.

Halverson, 94, of Sartell won her medal in shuffleboard competing against other women in the 90-94 age group.

The games took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 14-25 with

more than 14,000 competitors.

She played seven games in three days.

"I won every game until the last game," Halverson said, losing to the eventual Gold Medal winner, Shirley Stein from Kansas.

"I beat her badly the first game but she took care of me in the last game," Halverson said.

Two years ago, Halverson won the gold medal in the same event.

About a half dozen friends traveled to the tournament to cheer for her.

To qualify for this year's national event, she competed in the state contest in Mankato.

Twice widowed, Halverson learned the game after she and her first husband moved to Arizona for health reasons. A cabinet in her Grand

Medal • page 2



contributed photo

Violet Halverson (right) stands on the medal platform at the National Senior Games with Sara Sievert (left) and Shirley Stein.

Medal

from front page

View Estates apartment holds shelves full of trophies she won at shuffleboard tournaments at RV parks and other places in Arizona.

The game is more popular in Arizona where participants can play on outdoor boards year-round.

Shuffleboard players wield cues to push weighted discs across the floor, trying to get the discs to come to a stop on one of six scoring areas of the triangular board – with scoring values being 10, 8, 8, 7, 7 and 10-off (meaning if a disc lands there, it's a minus-10 score for the player).

"There're a lot of tricks to it," Halverson said. "The boards are not perfectly smooth. You have to learn which way the disc goes."

Halverson was born and raised on a farm near Hinckley.

She remembers playing sports with her brothers including hanging a basket from a granary for basketball and using a fishing pole to create a high-jump bar.

After high school, she joined the Army during World War II and served. When she was discharged, she worked in Hinckley helping veterans with benefits and insurance. She married her first husband in 1949 and the couple adopted three children. After her second husband died, she moved back to Minnesota in 2005.

Will Halverson try for a three-peat at the next Senior Games scheduled in 2021 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida?

She is not willing to commit.

"My back and legs are wearing out," Halverson said.

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June 26

1:42 a.m. DWI. Riverside Avenue N. An officer witnessed a vehicle failing to maintain speed and then speeding. The officer stopped the vehicle and found the driver to be intoxicated. The driver was arrested and taken to Stearns County Jail. The passenger in the vehicle was given a ride home.

June 27

11:26 a.m. Fire alarm. Pinecone Road N. Officers and the fire department responded to a fire alarm. A leak in the roof caused a short in the fire alarm causing it to activate.

June 28

11:55 p.m. Motor vehicle tampering. First Street NE. Officers were dispatched to a group of juveniles who were entering vehicles. When officers arrived, one juvenile fled. Officers apprehended the juvenile, cited him and released him into the custody of his parent.

June 29

10:20 p.m. Traffic stop. Highview Drive W. An officer conducting a license-plate check found a driver with a revoked license. The officer stopped the vehicle and cited the driver. A passenger who had a valid license was allowed to drive

Blotter

from the scene.

June 30

12:50 p.m. Warrant. CR 1. An officer conducted a license-plate check. The owner had a canceled license and an arrest warrant. The officer stopped the vehicle. The driver was cited for the canceled license and arrested for the warrant.

July 1

4:05 a.m. DWI. CR 120. An officer stopped a vehicle for a light that was out on the vehicle. The driver was found to be impaired and arrested for DWI. The passenger who was going to be allowed to drive the vehicle away was found to have a warrant for their arrest. Both individuals were taken to Stearns County Jail.

July 2

2:45 p.m. Shoplifting. CR 120. Officers were dispatched to a shoplifting call. While in route the individual fled on foot. The individual was apprehended after a brief chase. The individual was cited for the theft and fleeing from the officers and then arrested for multiple warrants.

July 3

12:35 p.m. Intoxicated person. Pinecone Road. Officers were dispatched to an intoxicated person who had entered a business. Because of his level of intoxication, officers transported him to the St Cloud detox facility.

July 4

9:30 a.m. DWI CR 120. An officer ran a license plate in the parking lot of a business. The owner of the vehicle had a warrant for their arrest. Talking to the driver, the officer learned he was the owner and he had an open container in the vehicle. The driver was arrested for the warrant, the DWI and transported to Stearns County Jail.

July 5

9:35 p.m. Warrant arrest. River Oaks Lane. Officers serving a warrant on an individual arrived to find that individual not at home. Speaking with people in the area, the officers were told another person who was there had a warrant for their arrest. Officers confirmed the warrant and that person was transported to Stearns County Jail.

July 6

2:15 p.m. Traffic stop. Benton Drive N. An officer witnessed a vehicle fail to signal a turn. The driver was found to have a canceled license. The individual was taken into custody and the vehicle was secured so a family member could collect it later.

July 7

6:20 p.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue S. An officer witnessed a vehicle speeding. After stopping the car, the officer could smell marijuana coming. The driver was cited for having a suspended license, no proof of insurance, the marijuana and paraphernalia.

July 8

12:20 p.m. Unwanted person. Sundance. An officer was dispatched to a call of two individuals on private property who were not supposed to be there. The officer spoke with the individuals who stated they were waiting on a friend. The individuals left the property.

July 9

12:40 p.m. No pay. Twin Rivers Court. An officer was dispatched to a gas station for an unpaid fuel purchase. The officer met with the owner of the vehicle that drove off and the owner stated it was a mistake and paid for the fuel purchase.

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People

Two Sartell students were recently named to the spring dean's list at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. They are **Katlyn Ramseth** and **Katelyn Stalboerger**. To qualify for the the dean's list, students achieve a grade-point average in the top 15 percent of the enrollment.

Three Sartell students recently graduated from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. The students and their degrees are: **Allison Prochnow**, bachelor's degree in visual arts; **Zachery Weiler**, bachelor's degrees in sociology and criminal justice studies; and **Makayla Wittmer-George**, bachelor's degree in business administration.

Katharine Zoeller of Sartell recently graduated from Concordia University, St. Paul. She completed her bachelor's degree in psychology with high distinction indicating a grade-point average of 3.9.

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

Eric Karpel of Sartell graduated from Cal Poly Pomona (California) with a degree in graphic design.

Kate Karpel of Sartell graduate with honors with a degree in fashion design from Columbia College in Chicago.

Three Sartell students recently graduated from The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth. The students are **Sarah Symanietz**, cum laude with a bachelor's degree in biology; **Kelly Murphy**, summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in nursing; and **Mackenzie Schad** with a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Zachary Fisher of Sartell has been named to the spring semester dean's list at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. To be eligible for the deans' list a student earns a 3.5 or higher grade-point average.

Two Sartell students earned degrees at The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth. The students and their degrees are: **Nicole Nelsen**, doctorate in nursing; and **Meaghan Baldwin**, master's in business administration.

Thirty-five Sartell students have been named to the spring semester dean's list at St. Cloud State University. To be eligible, students must have a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale. The students are: **Brooke Amundson**, **Osama Ayyub**, **Casey Becker**, **Jordyn Brandt**, **Riley Buck**, **Kyle Cielinski**, **Caleb Clemens**, **Tyler Cronquist**, **Matthew Dockendorf**, **Tyler Elness**, **Paige Elyea**, **Robert Entenmann**, **Kyle Erickson**, **Alexis Haas**, **Luke Henderson**, **Anna Hince**, **Luke Kessler**, **Audrey Kotasaka**, **Amanda Lengyel**, **Donovan Magney**, **Kayleen Martins**, **Bryan Mayotte**, **Dylan Noehring**, **Jonathan Oleson**, **Courtney Olund**, **Aaron Randall**, **Stephanie Reil**, **Laurie Robles Ramirez**, **Jordan Roller**, **Michael Sorensen**, **Darek Stachowski**, **Katherine Strand**, **Megan VanHeel**, **Jarrett Weispfenig** and **Marisa Wood**.

Twenty-seven Sartell students recently graduated from St. Cloud State University. The students and their degrees are: **Deqo Ahmed**, master's in social work; **Brooke Amundson**, bachelor's; **Anna Bailey**, master's; **Deborah Beumer**, bachelor's; **Lance Doeden**, bachelor's; **Paige Elyea**, magna cum laude, bachelor's; **Alexis Gent**, cum laude, bachelor's; **Gabrielle Hagen**, summa cum laude, bachelor's; **Haley Hanson**, cum laude, bachelor's; **Theresa Haugen**, master's; **Jordan Heinen**, magna cum laude, bachelor's; **Julianne Hintgen**, graduate certificate; **Suhaib Kazzaz**, master's; **Bailey Klinghagen**, cum laude, bachelor's; **Kelly Magier**, master's; **Sarah Majerle**, master's; **Steven Maus**, cum laude, bachelor's; **Hafis Mensah**, cum laude, bachelor's; **Hannah Ronyak**, cum laude, bachelor's; **Samantha Schiller**, bachelor's; **Nicholas Schramel**, bachelor's; **Daniel Silvers**, summa cum laude, bachelor's; **Mikayla Stockinger**, summa cum laude, bachelor's; **Michaela Van der Vyver**, bachelor's; **Cody Walters**, bachelor's; **Jordan Wieber**, cum laude, bachelor's; and **Daniel Wilson**, cum laude, bachelor's.

Jennifer Emery of Sartell recently earned a Certificate in Teaching at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth.

Five Sartell students recently graduated from Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples. The students are: **Jenna Anderson**, **Rebekah Kucala**, **Taylor Traut**, **Tiffany Traut** and **Kyle Tveit**.

Kyler Krush of Sartell recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Three Sartell students were recently named to the spring dean's list at St. John's University. The students are **Dean Amundson**, **Elliot Edeburn** and **Brandon Kramer**. To be included on the dean's list, students earn semester grade-point average of at least 3.80.

Award

from front page

The other award, the Meritorious Service Award, was from Hughes on behalf of the Sartell Police Department.

"Thank you very much," said Hanson after receiving the two awards from Hughes as the council applauded.

Hanson has worked for the Sartell Police Department for 23 years, the last 19 of them as communications specialist. She helps with walk-in calls and requests for information from the public, files records, handles a wide variety of phone calls, cross-trains a city hall staff member to help with records, works with city staff on all sorts of needs and serves as a mentor for clerical staff.

In addition, Hughes noted she had given professional input when architects were designing the new records and communication center in



Hanson the new police station in the Public Safety Facilities building now under construction. She has been assisting with data entry for the fire department to create a smooth transition between the two departments when the new facility opens.

"She (Hanson) come to work with a smile on her face and a commitment to the agency that any administrator would like to see," Hughes told the council, adding that Hanson is the "backbone of our operations."

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Bitstream brings YouTube access for local sports

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

When Brian Lommel was setting up his video gear for a hockey game, a woman walked over to him with tears in her eyes and thanked him.

She told Lommel that, thanks to him, her son's grandmother, who lives in a Southern state, was finally able to watch her grandson play hockey – the first time she was able to see him play.

A Sartell resident, Lommel is executive producer/owner, along with co-owner Jason Bambenek, of Bitstream Productions, which he founded in November of last year. Lommel, 53, has a degree in marketing from St. Cloud State University.

Since that time, he – with help from wife Donna – has videotaped almost 120 mainly hockey games for broadcast on YouTube. Most of the local games were played at the Bernick's Arena in Sartell. At first, Lommel's son Jonathan was his video assistant, but when he landed a full-time job elsewhere, Donna gladly agreed to help as assistant videographer, and there they were every weekend from November through late March, filming the games.

The groups Lommels work with as videographers are Sartell Youth Hockey, Storm'n Sabres Girls High School Hockey Team, St. John's University Club Hockey Team, Sauk Rap-

ids/Sartell Lacrosse Team, St. Cloud Muskies Amateur Baseball, A110 Athletics, Western Collegiate Club Hockey Association and Minnesota Warriors Hockey.

Hockey seems to run in the blood of the Lommel family. Brian and son Jonathan are goaltenders for the Hockey Finders League. Daughter Jayden plays for the Storm'n Sabres hockey team and while wife Donna never played hockey, she was a cheerleader for the hockey team when she was a student at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School. The oldest Lommel daughter, Jordan, doesn't play hockey, but she loves to dance.

It was his love of hockey and his two decades of expertise with technology and videography that convinced Lommel to form his production company. When he worked years ago for Best Buy, he missed so many of Jayden's games and felt bad about it. He was also keenly aware of how many parents, siblings and relatives of hockey players had to miss games because of busy scheduling conflicts or other reasons.

Wouldn't it be nice, he thought, if he could create professional video productions of the games for all to see when time allowed? His instinct was right on the mark. Bitstream Productions' games coverage now averages 350 views each game, with some as many as 1,000 views, including some

games watched as far away as Afghanistan. The productions are also big hits with coaches and players who watch the games to study the plays and to improve their skills.

"I always thought these local teams don't get as much coverage as they deserve," Lommel said. "It's important to tell their stories, their playing, on video."

The fans of Bitstream wholeheartedly agree. For example, a neighbor told Lommel she was stunned to see her young son up so early one morning, eating cereal in his room – such a rarity because usually she would have to coax, cajole and all-but-pry him out of bed in the mornings. That morning, she discovered, he was avidly watching a Bitstream video of him and his Mites teammates playing hockey.

And it's not just hockey fans who enjoy Bitstream productions. The Lommels have also recorded amateur baseball and lacrosse games. In fact, in late July, they'll record 12 games for the Waite Park Babe Ruth Association.

Lommel's company has two mottoes: "Bringing Action to You!" and "Changing the Way We Watch Youth Sports." He had seen other amateur sports productions on YouTube, but most often they lacked quality. Lommel was determined to do it the right way and so he worked very hard to tweak his skills and to find just the right technological solutions. He



contributed photo

Brian and Donna Lommel spend a lot of time in their at-home studio of Bitstream Productions. Since November of last year, they have produced almost 120 video productions of local youth sports games, mainly hockey, but also some baseball and lacrosse games. The games are live-streamed via YouTube.

and Donna do the recording, but they also have unmanned cameras stationed here and there at a field or arena. Lommel also does productions of nonsporting events, complete with post-production services.

"It takes a lot of prep work," he said. "We have to plot out the camera positions, prepare a lot of graphics, work in the logos and advertisements. The whole thing is an ongoing process of discovery and invention, and sometimes we find ourselves doing things on the fly. I used to take a photo of the scoreboard and then superimpose it, but now I can do it automatically right from

the camera. We can also do slow motion now. The (hockey) goal cameras we figured out could be placed on glass with suction cups."

Bitstream Productions is a full-time job for Brian and Donna Lommel, with huge help from co-owner Bambenek, who is superb at strategizing the business, Lommel noted.

"My job is an example of that saying about finding something you love and it won't feel like work," Lommel said. "That's it exactly."

To sample some of the Lommels' works, visit www.bitstreamproductions.live

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Sartell gets \$513,000 rehab grant

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A grant application applied for by the city of Sartell in February has been granted – \$513,000 for home rehab projects given via the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

It is good news for Sartell because it is \$53,000 more than the amount requested in the grant application. In its application in February, the city asked for \$460,000.

It is a Small Cities Development Grant, and Sartell was one of many Minnesota cities to receive one, with the average grant amount of from \$400,000 to \$600,000. A total of \$43 million, funded by the state, will be disbursed throughout Minnesota.

Sartell has the grant administered for specific rehab work through the Central Minnesota Housing Partnership.

There is enough money for

five projects of owner-occupied places (up to \$24,000 per project); two projects for single-family rentals (up to \$24,000 per project), two units of duplex rentals (up to \$12,000 per unit); and numerous multi-family rental units (up to \$12,500 per unit). The funds could be used for rehab projects that include roofing, siding, windows, doors, insulation, electrical, plumbing, health-and-safety, energy efficiency, accessibility and lead paint remediation.

The funds will not have to be repaid back for owner-occupied dwellings as long as the owner lives for seven years in the property as homestead status. If the owner moves, money owed would be pro-rated for repayment at no interest. Any funds repaid would go back into a revolving fund for future Sartell residential rehab projects.

Sartell Administrator Mary Degiovanni said a similar

Small Cities Grant was given to Sartell in 2013 for home rehab projects in 2014 and 2015, mainly for homes on Sartell's east side, but with 10 rental properties on the city's west side.

This new grant money will be used in three target areas in Sartell. One of them is an owner-occupied residential area in the city east of the Mississippi River and just northeast of the dam; another target area, also of owner-occupied dwellings, is between Second Street S. and Sartell Street W. The third consists of multi-family rental buildings just east of the school district's office building (the former Sartell School of decades ago).

To be eligible for this particular grant, a project must meet one of three objectives: benefit people of low and moderate incomes, eliminate slum and blighted conditions or eliminate an urgent threat to public health or safety.

Walls keep rising at safety facilities' site

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Walls keep rising practically overnight at the site of Sartell's Public Safety Facilities campus along Pinecone Road N. and Heritage Drive.

A ground-breaking ceremony took place at the site about a month ago and already the two buildings are visually definable.

The site will be the new home for both the Sartell Police Department and the Sartell Fire Department. The current site for those departments, back to back on Second Street, has long been inadequate to accommodate their needs.

Last year, after much study and detailed input from members of the police and fire departments, the city council approved construction of the new facilities. The architectural firm chosen for the project is HMA Architects, the same company that designed the Sartell Community Center. Strack Cos. was selected to be the projects' construction manager.

The current police station and fire department, combined, total only 12,500 square feet. The new facilities will be almost four times bigger – 49,000 square feet.

The buildings of orange-tan brick and metal exterior resemble aesthetically the city's community center and its city hall.

Murray Mack of HMA architects told the City Council the input from police officers and firefighters was indispensable in helping his firm design the



photo by Dennis Dalman

Rapid progress is being made at the Sartell Public Safety Facilities site, which is expected to open in early 2020. The construction manager is Strack Cos. HMA Architects designed the project.

structures. Mack said the project is "like hitting a home run for the city."

The facilities will contain a vast array of specialized rooms: a police booking area, a large lobby, dictation room, data-storage room, other secured storage rooms, offices for police personnel, administrative rooms, a conference room and

two training rooms. The fire department structure will feature a training tower for firefighters, a fitness room, locker rooms, an interview area, a very large bay for fire vehicles and other equipment, a wash room for firefighting gear, a dining area, a quiet room and break rooms.

The facilities will be completed in early 2020.

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Opinion

Our View

Whose voices should shape the image of Central Minnesota?

A front-page story in the June 21 New York Times reported on St. Cloud's anti-Muslim, anti-immigration advocates.

It's not the first time Central Minnesota's racist and xenophobic attitudes have received statewide and even national attention.

In the print edition, the headline read "Resettled refugees unsettle a mostly white city."

The online story carried a more detailed headline: "These People Aren't Coming From Norway: Refugees in a Minnesota City Face a Backlash. As more Somali refugees arrive in St. Cloud, white anti-immigration activists have pressed an increasingly explicit anti-Muslim agenda."

Predictably, locals responded the Concerned Community Citizens crew quoted in the story does not speak for the entire area or a majority of residents. An editorial in the St. Cloud Times called on people with a different viewpoint to step up and speak up.

These stories will continue to appear and the notion St. Cloud is a place that does not welcome diversity and change will keep coming as long as a noisy few appear to speak for all. If the anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant viewpoint is truly held by a minority, only words and more importantly actions, prove it.

Meanwhile, St. Cloud will continue to be known across the country as White Cloud. That image does not stop at the St. Cloud city limits. Sartell, St. Joseph, Sauk Rapids and Waite Park residents need to speak and act their true beliefs.

In St. Joseph, the Cultural Bridges group sponsors programs to help immigrants become part of the community. English classes, citizenship education, community meals and job counseling reach out to the city's newest residents. Cultural Bridges has taken action as well as offered words.

In addition to the legal and moral issues raised by xenophobia and racism, there's also a component of economic self interest. When companies research where to locate, when families decide where to accept a new job or parents decide where to send sons and daughters to college, do we want the New York Times' reporting, and other stories like it, to be at the top of a Google search.

As the New York Times reports, "In this predominantly white region of Central Minnesota, the influx of Somalis, most of whom are Muslim, has spurred the sort of demographic and cultural shifts President Trump and right-wing conservatives have stoked fears about for years. The resettlement has divided many politically active residents of St. Cloud, with some saying they welcome the migrants."

"But for others, the changes have fueled talk about 'white replacement,' a racist conspiracy theory tied to the declining birthrates of white Americans that has spread in far-right circles and online chat rooms and is now surfacing in some communities."

According to the New York Times' story, Concerned Community Citizens, known as C-Cubed, was formed in 2017 to support more nativist candidates on the City Council.

There's mixed evidence whether C-Cubed represents the majority viewpoint. Last year, the group supported four candidates and won two seats on the City Council. Modeled on Donald Trump's Make America Great Again hats, red Make St. Cloud Great Again Hats appeared on the heads of C-Cubed supporters.

Results of the "Social Capital Survey of Central Minnesota," commissioned by the Central Minnesota Community Foundation, presents more scientific evidence. The 73 percent of respondents who say they trust people from Somalia was 17 percent higher in 2015 than it was in 2010. Granted, this data is four years old and was collected before Donald Trump unleashed his daily lies about immigration, but it does represent positive change?

The Times story ended with this anecdote:

"One woman, who declined to give her name after the group discussion, bemoaned the city's so-called no-go zones, or the areas where white residents said they felt so uncomfortable with the Somali-American presence that they would not return — a shopping mall, a community housing center and Beaver Island Trail, a hiking area that borders the Mississippi River.

"They were just —" she said, searching for the words to describe the offending behavior of the Somali-Americans. "They were just walking around."

Is this the Central Minnesota we want, where walking while being black is unacceptable?

Are we ready for today's big idea?

Mike Knaak
Editor



how to do it. None of the machines to get to the moon had been built or tested.

Failure to achieve the goal would have embarrassed the country, especially if the Soviets reached the moon first. We've heard the quote from NASA's leaders many times: "Failure was not on option."

When Franklin Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower and Winston Churchill planned D-Day, failure was definitely a possibility and with catastrophic consequences. In his message to the troops, Eisenhower wrote: "We will accept nothing less than full victory!"

These two very different historic events share common characteristics: bold vision, teamwork at all levels and big risks.

With great sacrifice and bravery, D-Day succeeded. With trusted leadership, the efforts of hundreds of thousands of Americans and technical excellence, Armstrong and Aldrin walked on the moon.

Could Americans meet those historic challenges today? Given a life-or-death mission or a visionary goal, what would be the result?

Who would be today's Eisenhower, Roosevelt or Kennedy?

Be proud and aware this Fourth of July season

Connor Kockler
Guest Writer



place where they could breathe free, and when that freedom was questioned, they fought to keep it. When the king tried to raise taxes on the colonists without their consent, they resisted in a number of creative ways, most notably with throwing a bunch of British tea into Boston Harbor. "No taxation without representation" became a rallying cry that eventually led to these determined patriots to take up arms to defend themselves against tyranny and oppression.

Their beliefs were manifested in the document of the Declaration of Independence, the anniversary of which we celebrate every July 4. The Declaration said "all men are created equal" and that governments should derive their powers from the "consent of the governed" not from a birthright or crown. A new concept of a nation was born, one that was responsible to and served its citizens, rather than ruling mercilessly over them.

Taking these ideals as inspiration, the United States overcame many challenges: eradicating the scourge of slavery, establishing a strong and prosperous economy, and defeating tyranny in the world wars that would have brought the globe back into an age of dictators and darkness.

In a September 1962 speech, Kennedy said: "We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win, and the others, too."

What leader would dare to speak similar words today?

Kennedy and Eisenhower envisioned success, but success was not guaranteed. Eisenhower wrote a message in case the invasion failed and he was ready to take the blame.

"Our landings in the Cherbourg-Havre area have failed to gain a satisfactory foothold and I have withdrawn the troops. My decision to attack at this time and place was based upon the best information available. The troops, the air and the Navy did all that Bravery and devotion to duty could do. If any blame or fault attaches to the attempt it is mine alone."

In this time and place, it's time for visionary leadership to turn back climate change. The consequences of failure or inaction are just as great as on D-Day. The technology needed to stop global warming is just as experimental as the path to the moon was in 1961.

In 50 or 75 years, Americans should look back on the summer of 2019 as a time when American leadership set a visionary and essential goal and challenged the country to meet it.

Our country hasn't been perfect, and there have been episodes in our history that we need to learn from. But just because we have made mistakes shouldn't be an excuse for critics to write this nation or our history off. Incredible sacrifices were made by many people throughout time that many of us couldn't possibly fathom making now, and that wouldn't have been made if they were only interested in their own self-benefit.

So this Fourth of July season, we should remember how we got here, but also where we want to go as a nation. We can always continue to work toward being good citizens and living up to the ideals our country embodies. We should stay aware of what's going on in our neighborhoods and country at large. We should be proud of being American, but also aware of how things can still be improved.

The price for the freedoms and prosperity we enjoy every day in the United States is being vigilant in protecting them. Its standing up for what's right when you see or hear things that go against our beliefs of freedom and liberty. So remember while enjoying a beautiful Minnesota summer, our nation is strong and great only as long as we are willing to do our part to keep it that way.

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

**GOT AN
OPINION?**

Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only).

The Newsleaders
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Obituary

Terry Sufka, 71
Sartell
Sept. 20, 1947-July 5, 2019

Terry Sufka, of Sartell, died July 5 in St. Cloud Hospital. His funeral will be held at noon Friday, July 12 in St. Francis Xavier Catholic



Sufka

Church, 219 Second St. N., Sartell. The Rev. Tim Baltes will officiate and burial with full military honors will be in the parish cemetery. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to noon Friday at the gathering space at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Williams Dingmann Funeral Home in Sauk Rapids. Sufka was born Sept. 20, 1947 in St. Cloud to Nicholas and Dorothy (Braun) Sufka.

He grew up in the Rice/Royalton area. He served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam war, serving three tours of duty. He worked as a supervisor at the paper mill in Sartell for 38 years and also worked for a period of time at Park Industries. He was a member of St. Francis Xavier Church in Sartell and the American Legion Post #277 of Sartell. Sufka loved to tell stories and was quite the talker. He

enjoyed spending time cooking, gardening, playing horse shoes and fishing. Sufka had a great work ethic and always found time to help out other people, he was one to drop everything and help, he was always generous to others. He was a strong person, a motivator and a good-hearted man. Survivors include the following: his wife Joanne of Sartell; his children, Sherry (Gary) Dullinger of Staples;

Terri Jo Sufka of St. Cloud; Jennifer Hallerman of Watkins; Matthew (Maureen) of Rogers; Eugene (Angie) of Anoka; brothers and sister, Len (Carol) of Burnsville; Tom of St. Cloud; Pat Sufka of Sartell; sister in law, Renee Sufka of Sauk Rapids; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Nick Jr.

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@thenewsleaders.com. Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.

Friday, July 12
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Saturday, July 13
Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

Sunday, July 14
Tour of Saints bicycle ride, check in 6:30-8:30 a.m., Haehn Campus Center, College of St. Benedict. Same-day registration available; 18-, 35- and 50-mile route options. www.tourofsaints.com.
Pet Blessing Celebration, 10

a.m., Unity Spiritual Center of Central Minnesota, 931 Fifth Ave. N, Sartell. 320-255-9253 or www.UnitySpiritualCenter.org.

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

St. Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease Support Group, 1-2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids.
Sartell Farmers Market, 3-6 p.m., Bernick's Arena parking lot, 1109 First St. S., Sartell, marketmonday.org.
Sartell-St. Stephen school board, 5 p.m., district office, 212 Third Ave. N.
St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 W Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

Tuesday, July 16
Mobile office hours, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell City Hall. A caseworker from Rep. Tom Emmer's office will be available to handles issues with federal government services.
Memory Writers group develops

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

Hockeyville check presentation, 6 p.m. free food, check presentation at 7 p.m., Bernick's Arena, 1109 First St. S.
St. Cloud Area Genealogists, 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org.

Wednesday, July 17
SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S., Sartell.

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

Thursday, July 18
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Speaker: Bob Alpers, St. John's University athletic director and head golf coach.

American Legion-Sartell, open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Liquid Assets, 1091 Second St.

S. No. 600, Sartell. john.denney@charter.net.

Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.

Friday, July 19
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

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

Saturday, July 20
Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell. Free.

Monday, July 22
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Sartell Farmers Market, 3-6 p.m., Bernick's Arena parking lot, 1109 First St. S., Sartell, marketmonday.org.

Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N. 320-253-2171.

Tuesday, July 23
National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. The group helps parents raising a child with mental illness learn coping skills and develop problem-solving skills. 320-654-1259.

Thursday, July 25
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Brenda Dingmann, AAA membership director.

Scott M. Raden Memorial Golf Tournament, shotgun start at 11:30 a.m., Blackberry Ridge Golf Club. Proceeds go to the Sartell golf teams and ALS Association. www.scottmradenmemorialgolftournament.org.

Friday, July 26
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

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Roundabout construction closes key road

Roundabout construction began July 8 at the intersection of CR 4 and CR 120.

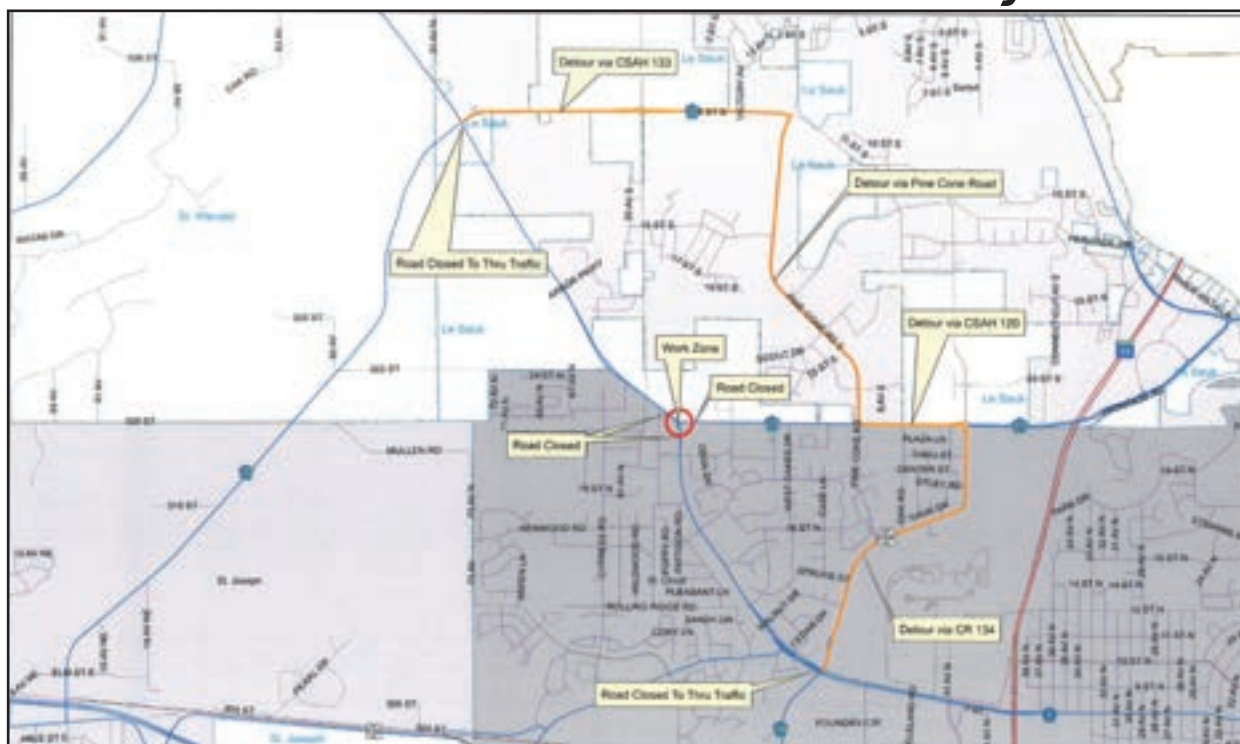
The intersection is closed and motorists will need to detour. See map at right.

The construction is expected to last through early September depending on weather.

Stearns County's 0.25 percent transportation sales tax will fund the project.

There were 10 collisions at the intersection from 2011 to 2015. About 9,600 vehicles a day travel CR 4 and 12,100 use CR 120.

Traffic is expected to increase 30 percent in the next 20 years.



Hockey

from front page

ation members and extremely generous local sponsors. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted in the competition as well as the sponsors who make events like this possible."

The award will be put toward the rink's capital campaign. In April, the rink received a lead campaign gift from Scheels All Sports and is now developing plans for construction.

The expansion is spurred by the tremendous growth the city has experienced in youth hockey and athletics.

Home-builder Reker's death saddens City Council

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A man who was very much a part of Sartell's remarkable residential building boom for the past three decades died July 4, and his death brought sadness to the Sartell City Council at its July 8 meeting.

Martin "Marty" A. Reker, 55, died at St. Cloud Hospital due to an undisclosed illness.

City Council member Tim Elness mentioned Reker's passing and expressed thoughts and prayers for his family, **Reker** as did council member Mike Chisum.

"I live in one of the houses



he built," Chisum added.

Born to Frederick and Rita Reker in St. Cloud, Reker married Karen Erpelding at age 19. Four years later, he established Reker Construction Inc. with his uncle, Butch Bechtold. The two men and their employees built more than 1,000 homes, a good number of them in Sartell. They also built, owned and operated the Grandview Apartments in Sartell.

Reker was known by friends, family and acquaintances as a man cherished for his wit, his humor, and his generosity and kindness. He enjoyed his family most of all and also bicycling, boating, hunting, fishing, traveling and card games.

Reker and his family lived in Rice next to the Mississippi River.

Survivors include wife Karen and children Chad Reker

of Eden Prairie, Katrina Bogart of Sartell and Caitlin Reker of Rice. Also surviving Reker are his mother and several grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many other family members.

A devout Catholic, a Mass was held July 11 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Sauk Rapids. Burial is set for a later date at Assumption Cemetery in St. Cloud.

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