

# Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

 Friday, Sept. 6, 2019  
 Volume 24, Issue 17  
 Est. 1995

## Town Crier

### Farmers' Market open Mondays

The Sartell Farmers' Market is open from 3-6 p.m. Mondays at Bernick's Arena, 1109 First St S, Sartell. Fall is here and so is the squash. You will continue to find great summer vegetables you love, in addition to breads, treats, salsa, honey and much more. We are open every Monday until mid-October.

### Harvest Fest slated for Sept. 20

The 20th annual Harvest Fest, sponsored by the St. Joseph Farmers' Market, will be held from 3-7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 20, under the water tower near Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 N. CR 2, St. Joseph. The event features live music, a petting zoo, a magician, pumpkin decorating, face painting, balloon animals, kids' craft table, apple cider and pie by the slice, and samples and food for purchase by local vendors.

### Last chance to register for SAYBA basketball

Reminder: Absolute last date to register for the 2019-20 SAYBA travel basketball season is Sunday, Sept. 15. No late registrations accepted. Register online at saybabball.org.

### Sartell High School dedication is Sept. 14

The Sartell-St. Stephen school district invites the community to celebrate the grand opening of the new Sartell High School. At 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14, there will be a ribbon-cutting followed by tours. The dedication ceremony will be at 2 p.m. at the high school, 3101 Pinecone Road N.

### Delivery driver wanted

The Newsleaders is immediately hiring a driver for every other Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Must have clean driving record and a Minnesota license. Contact Janelle at janellev@thenewsleaders.com or call 320-363-7741 Option 1.

**INSERT:**  
 City of St. Stephen  
 newsletter

## Sartell students perform well on statewide tests

by Mike Knaak  
 editor@thenewsleaders.com

The latest statewide school test scores showed students in the Sartell-St. Stephen district continue to exceed state averages and overall show a high level of performance.

The state Department of Education released on Aug. 28 the latest performance scores based on five indicators – achievement and progress on state reading and math tests over time, progress towards English language proficiency, graduation rates and consistent attendance.

The results recognize top performers as well as highlight areas that need improvement and attention.

Sartell-St. Stephen district exceeded the state average in all indicators.

In reading achievement, Sartell students scored 72.06 percent compared with 58.29 percent statewide. In math achievement, Sartell students scored 75.24 percent compared with 53.85 percent statewide.

Achievement scores are calculated by the number of students that meet or exceed standards divided by the number of all students tested.

Sartell students' yearly progress in math and reading also exceeded the statewide average. In reading, Sartell scored 2.37 compared with 2.00 statewide and in math, Sartell scored 2.48 compared with 2.33 statewide.

"Our kids performed quite well on state measurements," said Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert. "We compare very well in Central Minnesota, (but) I always want us to get better."

In attendance, 91.46 percent of students attended at least 90 percent of the time compared with 85.20 percent statewide.

Sartell's four-year graduation rate of 98.19 percent topped the state level of 82.42 percent. That performance places Sartell High School in the state's top 5 percent of public school districts for graduation rates.

Perform • page 2



photo by Mike Knaak

**New high school opens for students**  
 Students gather in work spaces in the Sartell High School Commons on the first day of class, Sept. 3. Ninth-graders were the first to arrive followed by 10th through 12th graders later in the day. The Sartell-St. Stephen school district will host a celebration for the new school on Saturday, Sept. 14. The event begins with a ribbon-cutting and tours at 11 a.m. followed by a dedication ceremony at 2 p.m.

## New Sartell welcome sign brings praise

by Dennis Dalman  
 news@thenewsleaders.com

The new welcome-to-Sartell sign near the city's new high school is a hit with residents, and the City Council is considering putting up more of the signs elsewhere at entrances to the city.

The sign is comprised of metal letters, about 3 feet tall, that spell S-A-R-T-E-L-L in a curved configuration. It was installed on the roundabout at 35th Street N. and Pinecone Road just east of the new school. The sign is 13.5 feet long.

At the Aug. 26 city-council meeting, the four members pres-



contributed photo

**This is the welcome-to-Sartell sign on a roundabout near the new Sartell High School.**

ent (Brady Andel was absent) said they had heard many good comments from residents and visitors about the new sign. They also added they themselves are impressed by it.

"That sign looks really good.

It's not gaudy, but it's powerful," said council member Mike Chisum, adding it would be good to have a sign like it on the roundabouts on south Pinecone Road, either at Heritage Road or Troop Drive.

Mayor Ryan Fitzthum said one should probably be constructed on the roundabout just southeast of the Walmart store, by the road leading south to Sauk Rapids. Another sign, he added, could be placed on the roundabout at Pinecone and CR 133.

The council agreed to revisit those possibilities in the near future.

The signs cost about \$5,000 each, including the letters and the concrete base. With electrical service to the sign and lighting, each would cost about \$7,500, which is much less expensive than other "welcome" signs done in the past, according to city staff.

## Band hits the road to play for the troops

by Mike Knaak  
 editor@thenewsleaders.com

For this travelin' band, playing a Friday night gig in Aberdeen, South Dakota, and then appearing the next night 500 miles away in Brice Prairie, Wisconsin, is no big deal.

But earlier this summer Sweet Siren really took their act on the road.

The Top-40 and classic-rock band played for U.S. troops at two stops in Germany.

Guitar player and Sartell resident Jeff Schreiner said the eight-

day trip in early August was "unbelievable."

"They are away from their families a year at a time," Schreiner said of the troops. "It means a tremendous amount to them that you play for them. They love American bands playing American music."

The band's first stop was at Grafenwöhr Army Base where they headlined three shows as a part of the American German Volkfest, a family style festival.

Then it was on to U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach Illesheim for



photo by Vanessa Schreiner

**Sweet Siren performs at Volksfest.** Band members include (from left) Jeff Schreiner, Kent Christen, Carolyn Burgoyne and Jethro Arola.

Band • page 3





## CRAFT-VENDOR SALES

**Saturday, Sept. 7**  
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 8**  
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

INSIDE Old Village Hall Building  
30 Main St. E., Rice

## Perform

## from front page

"Our high school works to get all our kids past that step in their lives," Schwiebert said.

Detailed results show two student groups that need attention, Schwiebert said.

Students receiving special-education services and students eligible for free or reduced-price meals scored significantly lower than the overall student population. There are 411 students

in the special education group and 353 students in the free or reduced meals group.

"We need interventions in the classroom to help kids who don't perform as well," Schwiebert said.

Additional space in the new high school this year and for students in kindergarten through eighth grade should help those scores on future tests, he said. The new high school provides more space for active learning instead of packing students in a classroom.

The 2019 scores were very

similar to results from 2018, with some indicators slightly higher and some slightly lower.

The average progress toward meeting individual targets for English learners showed significant improvement from 2018 to 2019. Although that includes only 34 students, the percentage of students who met or exceeded their target increased from 42.42 percent to 82.35 percent.

To view detailed scores for all Minnesota schools, go to <http://rc.education.state.mn.us>.

## 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](http://tricountycrimestoppers.org). Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.*

## Aug. 26

8:55 a.m. Counterfeit. CR 120. A business reported counterfeit money. Officers took possession of the money and sent it to the Secret Service.

## Aug. 27

5:50 a.m. DWI. Sixth Street S. Officers investigated a driving complaint about a vehicle following another vehicle around town. Officers stopped the vehicle and it was discovered the driver was intoxicated. The driver was arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail.

## Aug. 28

11:30 p.m. Curfew. 13th Avenue N. Officers spotted three juveniles out past curfew. The officer stopped and explained to the juveniles about curfew. The officers contacted the juve-

niles' parents and they were released to go home.

## Aug. 29

11:50 a.m. Vagrancy. River Oaks Lane. A possible camp along the river was reported. Officers met with an individual who had warrants for their arrest. The individual was taken into custody and transported to Stearns County Jail.

## Aug. 30

2:30 a.m. Traffic stop. CR 1. An officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation and the vehicle matched the description of a possible drug transaction. An assisting agency arrived and a K9 searched the vehicle. The search turned up multiple hypodermic needles and drug paraphernalia. Citations were issued for the needles and paraphernalia.

## Aug. 31

10:15 a.m. Traffic stop. Pinecone Road N. An officer conducting a license-plate check found a vehicle with an expired tab. The vehicle displayed a registration sticker not belonging to that vehicle. The officer, conducting the stop, smelled mari-

juana. A search of the vehicle turned up paraphernalia and methamphetamine. The driver was arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail.

## Sept. 1

7:55 p.m. Pursuit. CR 120. An officer spotted a vehicle without a license plate. The driver refused to exit after marijuana was discovered. The driver fled in the vehicle and threw items from the vehicle during the pursuit. The driver was arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail.

## Sept. 2

5:20 p.m. Traffic stop. Sixth Avenue S. An officer saw a vehicle that did not have a front license plate. Stopping the vehicle, it was discovered the driver had a suspended license. The officer issued a citation for the suspended license and a verbal warning for the license-plate issue.

## Sept. 3

3:45 p.m. Assault. Riverside Avenue N. A citizen called police after witnessing an assault. Officers spoke with the victim. After speaking with the victim, the officers took an individual into custody for assault.

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FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE (beginning Sept. 7/8)

Wednesdays - 6:30 p.m. • Saturdays - 5 p.m. • Sundays - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

## YOUTH EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School JAM (Jesus And Me) JAMZone - Wednesday Evenings  
Sunday Mornings Grades 1 & 2  
8:30 & 9:35 a.m. GodZone - Wednesday Evenings  
Grades 3 & 4

Youth Discipleship Training (YDT) - Wednesday Evenings  
Grades 5-9

Zero Gravity (High School Youth Group)  
Wednesdays - 8:15 p.m.

JOIN US FOR OUR FALL KICKOFF CELEBRATION!

Sunday, Sept. 8 at 11:30 a.m.

BBQ cookout, bounce houses, human foosball, gaga ball  
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Reaching Everybody!  
**Newsleaders**

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# Band

## from front page

one performance.

Schreiner and his three band mates all have day jobs and the trip would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of their employers, he said.

Schreiner is a driver for Sysco Food Service. Lead singer Carolyn Burgoyne works at Advantage One Insurance, bass player Jethro Arola manages a lumberyard in Menahga and drummer Kent Christen is parts and service manager at Welle Motors in Sauk Centre.

Schreiner, 48, has been in the band 11 years. Sweet Siren plays current Top 40 hits as well as classic rock and country.

Locally, they frequently appear at Benton Station in Sauk Rapids. On Saturday, Sept. 7, they'll be at La Jam at the La Playette in St. Joseph.

Armed Forces Entertainment, an agency of the Defense Department, arranged the tour. Sweet Siren's agent, Time Music Agency, has a relationship with Armed Forces Entertainment and helped with the band's application.

The band applied for the tour in the spring but didn't learn until early July that they would be going. And the dates and travel details shifted right up to the last minute.

The military allowed the band to bring three additional people. Accompanying the band were sound technician Mickey Ironi, lights and stage manager Greg Schreiner and Jeff's wife Vanessa who photographed the band's performances.

"We had the times of our lives," Schreiner said. "There was no part that wasn't enjoyable. Seeing the different culture. The troops were super appreciative."

In Ansbach, Vanessa met a young soldier from California. "Talking about Mexican food he got tears in his eyes," she said. He told her "I'm just so happy that you're here. You're from back home."

The band connected with some Minnesotans too. At Volksfest, they met soldiers from Mankato and St. Peter, one wearing a Twins jersey. At a hotel, the woman behind the counter had moved to Germany from St. Cloud.

Usually the band travels with a truckload of gear, but the military provided all the sound and lighting equipment. The musicians just needed their guitars and drumsticks so they could travel light.

A trip to Germany wouldn't be complete with sampling local beer, which they described as "excellent" and cheap. Returning to Minnesota, Jeff found a fa-



photo by Vanessa Schreiner

**Jeff Schreiner and Carolyn Burgoyne perform at Volksfest.**

vorite, Paulaner Hefe Weizen, at Westside Liquor.

In Germany, Vanessa said, "beer is cheaper than water."

Jeff grew up in St. Joseph and attended St. Joseph Lab School. He took up the guitar at 15, about the same time he and Vanessa met at Apollo High School. The couple has lived in Sartell "since we moved out of home," Vanessa said.

With his busy work and performing schedule, would Schreiner go on another trip?

"Absolutely."

music, food, friends & fun

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Caption goes here

# FrantoberFest

parish festival

Music by Dave Lumley Solo Acoustic

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**  
Aftershock youth night grades 6-12 - all community youth are invited

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**  
9:00 am - Franny Flyer 1k/5k/10k race  
4:00 pm - Mass featuring worship music by "Random Road"  
5:00-9:00 pm - FrantoberFest - Music by Dave Lumley Solo Acoustic  
• FREE Inflatables and kids games  
• Festival Foods including Brats and Burgers from St. Joe Meat Market  
• Drink - Beaver Island and Bad Habit Octoberfests, Milk and Honey Cider and domestics

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**  
8:00 am - 12:00 Noon - Waffle Breakfast  
12:00 Noon - Big Ticket drawing and Silent Auction closes

Worship Music by "Random Road"

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**Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota**

## Batting for Brent

# Brent

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Saturday, September 7th, 2019 @ Lake George Park in St Cloud, MN

8:30am check in / 10am walk start

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## Wanted: School Bus Drivers

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Pay starting at \$22.83/hr.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Class B Minnesota Driver's License with school-bus and/or passenger endorsement and a clean driving record.

Able to pass pre-employment drug screen.

Please apply at the Sartell-St. Stephen ISD 748

School District website:

[www.sartell.k12.mn.us](http://www.sartell.k12.mn.us)



**Tate William Spier, 19**  
**formerly of Sartell**  
**June 12, 2000-Aug. 16,**  
**2019**

PFC Tate William Spier, 19, died in a car accident on Aug. 16, 2019 at the U.S. Marine Corp. Headquarters in Quantico, Virginia.

A celebration of Spier's life will begin 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1300 S. Sertoma Ave., Sioux Falls, S.D. Visitation with the family will begin a half hour prior to service time. Miller Funeral Home in Sioux Falls, S.D., is in charge of arrangements.

Spier was born June 12, 2000 in Littleton, Colorado, during one of the largest forest fires in Colorado history. Of course, he had to make sure something huge was going on when he entered the world! He spent his childhood in Littleton and then Sartell from age 5 to 12. With his curious nature, he had to go around the entire neighborhood and introduce himself saying, "Hello, my name is Tate, T-A-T-E." Making the rounds every day and reporting back on the goings on, making friends with anyone and everyone along the way! He spent every



Spier

## Obituary

waking moment outside playing nerf guns, swimming and exploring on his beloved bike; a ball of energy ready to go from sunup to sundown.

In 2012, his family relocated to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he jumped right into life as an outgoing seventh-grader at Memorial Middle School. Then off to Roosevelt High School where he played football, threw shot put on the track team and excelled in powerlifting where he placed second in state competition for his weight class. He lived an exuberant high-schooler's life and loved hanging with his friends. With his maturity level, (since he was 4 years old, we always said he was 4 going on 40) he held several part-time jobs throughout his high school years. He graduated from high school in June 2018 and was already chomping at the bit for the next step of his life.

Since Spier was in first grade, he always aspired to be a U.S. Marine. When he graduated high school, he started the physical and mental preparations to go through the qualifications/testing phases required. He was accepted and officially sworn in on Sept. 11, 2018, then shipped off to Marine Corp Recruit Depot in San Diego on Nov. 11 to begin 13 weeks of intense training. He passed the final rigors of the Crucible, which is a 3-day, little food and sleep and 45-mile hike to earn his Eagle, Globe and Anchor which signifies

that he is now and forever will be a U.S. Marine. After bootcamp, he was assigned to Infantry Training Battalion at Camp Pendleton, California where he excelled in marksmanship and was his platoon grenadier. With ITB completed, he was selected for Marine Corp Embassy Security Group training in Quantico, Virginia. During this training cycle is when his life ended abruptly and far too soon. For the last nine months of his life, Spier was doing EXACTLY what he dreamt of doing since he was a little man.

Survivors include his parents: Russ and Elizabeth Spier (Chommie), his brothers: Morgan, Griffin and Sawyer, all in Sioux Falls. Grandparents: Elden and Glennis Spier and Donna Chommie of Bismarck, North Dakota. He was preceded in death by his grandparents: Glenn and Agnes (Sam) Hillestad and Peter W. Chommie.

All memorials and donations will be used for a scholarship fund under Spier's name for the Roosevelt High School football program to help players not able to afford camps and activities.

Spier is/was like a shooting star, shining bright, moving at light-speed and gone FAR too soon.

He would want everyone to remember both of these: "Go Big or Go Home" and "It Is What It Is"!

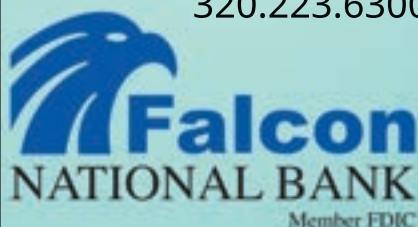
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COLLEGE OF  
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# Sen. Howe honored by Sartell council

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitzthum read a city proclamation honoring State Sen. Jeff Howe at the close of the Aug. 26 City Council meeting.

Fitzthum noted Howe was recently honored as a Legislator of Distinction by the League of Minnesota Cities. The mayor said a proclamation from Sartell should concur with that recognition.

Fitzthum and others worked with Howe in the legislature on the food-and-beverage-tax issue and said Howe has helped Sartell in many other ways.

The League specifically cited Howe for his work for the state to help fund local components



Sen. Jeff Howe

line of duty.

Howe (R-Rockville) was elected to the District 13 Senate seat in 2018, the one left vacant when former Sen. Michelle Fischbach (R-Paynesville) became lieutenant governor of Minnesota. Before that, starting in 2012, Howe represented House District 13A in the state legislator until he competed for and won the senate position.

of transportation projects and for authoring a bill to extend insurance benefits for public servants wounded or killed in the

## People

Two Sartell students received degrees during the University of Wisconsin-Madison's spring commencement on May 11. **Clay Mackenthun** and **Rowan McDonnell** earned bachelor's degrees.

**Rachel Wieme** of Sartell received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in soil science May 9 from Washington State University in Pullman.

**Stearns Bank** has been named one of the Best Banks to Work For in 2019 by American Banker magazine. The Best Banks to Work For program was initiated in 2013 by American Banker and Best Companies Group. It recognizes U.S. banks for outstanding employee satisfaction.

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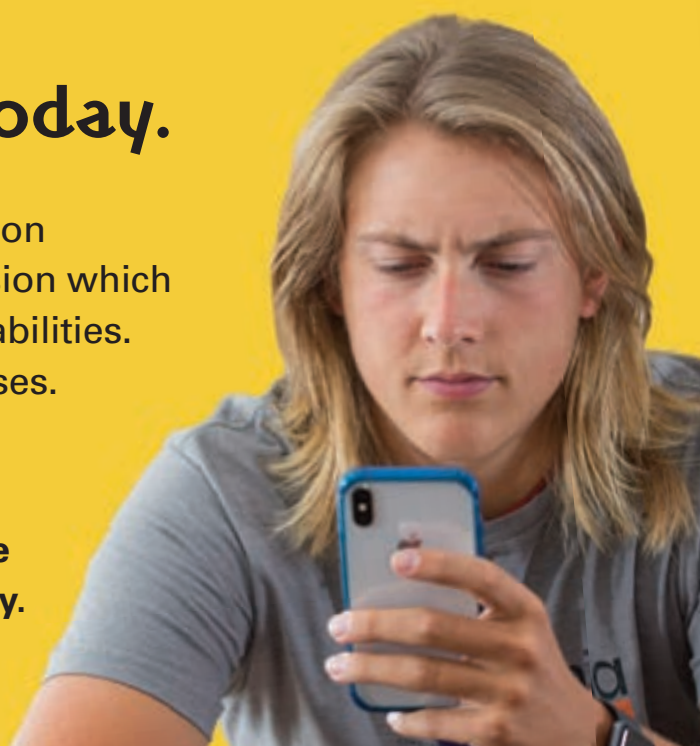
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# Opinion

## Our View

### Test scores provide a guide to close performance gaps

For those of you who like to keep score, the latest test results for Minnesota's schools were released last week.

Called the Minnesota Report Card from the state Department of Education, the scores measure the performance of the state's 890,000 students based on five indicators – achievement and progress on state reading and math tests over time, progress toward English language proficiency, graduation rates and consistent attendance.

The results recognize top performers as well as highlight areas that need improvement and attention.

Scores for individual schools or districts make it easy to compare student performance. But focusing on the topline score for such indicators as overall achievement in math or reading or graduation rates is a mistake.

Teachers and administrators know this. While they are proud of high scores, they quickly point out that continued effort is needed to maintain those results. More importantly, they emphasize using the results to diagnose areas for improvements.

As taxpayers and parents, we should look at those details as well.

For example, even though the Sartell-St. Stephen school district performs well overall, there are programs that need support.

Special-education students and students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals score well below the general student population. Those two groups account for 382 students, a significant population. The new Sartell High School addresses one of those needs. Administrators think the additional space and programs in the new building will improve the special-education score.

In the St. Cloud school district, there are wide swings in individual school scores as well as in each school's student groups.

Kennedy Community School in St. Joseph scores twice as high (52.76 percent) as Lincoln and Discovery in the percentage of students meeting or exceeding math achievement. But for Kennedy's 68 English learners, that achievement score drops to 20.58 percent.

The St. Cloud school district also has challenges that are typical across the state for students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

The report also records chronic absenteeism and how it correlates with performance.

School leaders rightly celebrate accomplishments of high-achieving students such as the number of students taking Advanced Placement classes or ACT scores.

But public schools serve all students and the challenge is to devise programs that raise scores for everyone. The biggest challenges are time and money.

Teachers and administrators are well aware of these challenges.

Whether we are parents of school-age children or not, the rest of us must focus on closing the performance gaps.

Minnesota's public schools serve their most diverse generation of students.

Pulling out tests scores for all students and making comparisons between school districts with widely differing social and economic conditions is dangerous. Even comparing schools in the same district risks misusing the detailed information in the test results.

Closing the performance gaps requires a funding commitment but also a community-wide approach...beyond what goes on in the classroom. Efforts to close gaps start with social issues such as English learners or economic challenges of reducing the number of families who need free school meals.

Test scores should not be viewed merely as a performance measurement but more importantly they should help citizens and their elected leaders diagnose where society needs to focus efforts that result in high performance for all students.

### Crouser captures traditional lifestyle with traditional tools

Making a photograph these days takes nothing more than clicking a smartphone button.

No need to worry about f/stops, shutter speeds or lens selection. Not to mention developing film and using an enlarger to make a print.

Of course the high technology that allows every person to make a photo does not guarantee the person pushing the button is truly a photographer – a person with a special eye that captures a story-telling instant using the perfect lighting and lens.

For those who have grown up with the computer-chip driven instant photography, making photos the slow, old way with film, chemicals, photo paper and more chemicals may seem like a huge waste of time.

My photo career started in the high school darkroom, carefully processing film and making prints. Years later when I could use digital technology as a newspaper photographer, I was happy to leave the darkroom behind. For covering the news, digital's speed and quality can't be beat.

Now, people are rediscovering film, chemical and paper-based photography, just as turntables and vinyl records have found new fans raised on CDs and MP3s.

Photographer Michael Crouser doesn't have to rediscover the pre-digital world. The St. John's University alum never left it behind.

His work is on display at the Alice R. Rogers Gallery and Target Gallery as part of the Visual Arts Series at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University.

Crouser's show, "Mountain Ranch: Traditional Images of Traditional Lives," runs through Oct. 20 at the gallery on the St. John's campus. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Hours are from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 9 p.m. on Thursday.

**Mike Knaak**  
Editor



It features photographs from Crouser's third book, "Mountain Ranch," which explores the disappearing world of cattle ranching in the mountains of Colorado. The exhibit also includes work from his first two books: "Los Toros," a book on bullfighting around the world, and "Dog Run," a series on the intense play of dogs in urban dog parks.

Crouser, a 1985 St. John's grad, found his photo calling at Hopkins Junior High School and then set up a darkroom in his family's basement.

He hasn't been without one since. Crouser never fell for the digital genie, preferring to use film cameras.

"It's not a decision based on advantage, it's a decision based on preference," Crouser told Mike Killeen for a news story on the university website. "I really prefer the craft of what I call tactile photography. That means you touch every aspect of it, the film you put in and take out of the camera, the developing of the film, the drying of your film in the air and the considering of the images to glass and projecting them down to paper. It's all very touchable from start to finish, and I prefer that as a craft to the computer."

I viewed Crouser's photos recently and nothing matches the richness and

tone of large, black and white prints made from film.

Crouser's images are timeless moments captured with uncommon patience and an eye for detail. It's easy to stand and examine each image for minutes to appreciate the story behind the photo.

Like his photo tools, "Mountain Ranch" is about tradition and timelessness. The book and exhibit are the products of a 10-year exploration of the disappearing world of cattle ranching in the mountains of Colorado.

According to the exhibit notes, "Crouser has concentrated on the traditional elements of these traditional lives, focusing on how ranching has stayed the same, rather than on how it has changed. Ranchers refer to themselves as an "endangered species" and Crouser's pictures include the vital elements of their life and work, which will disappear as traditional ranching itself goes away.

Like his rancher subjects, Crouser is a traditional photographer whose art has stayed the same, rather than changed. But unlike the ranchers' life and work, Crouser's art will not fade away.



One of the images from Michael Crouser's exhibition, "Mountain Ranch: Traditional Images of Traditional Lives."

### CBD oil leads to larger debate

In storefronts and on signs around Minnesota lately, you may be seeing a lot more green. No, it's not Christmas yet, but a large number of CBD oil products are being advertised. As the wave of cannabis legalization has swept across the United States, some of its products, and debate, has made its way to our state. So what is CBD oil and what could it mean for the further legalization of cannabis in Minnesota?

To start, the presence of CBD oil in stores does not mean cannabis (colloquially marijuana) is legal for recreational use in this state. Minnesota has a complex framework of laws in place to regulate it. Cannabis possession in Minnesota is illegal but somewhat decriminalized. Possession of 42.5 grams or less will get you a \$200 fine, while anything above that will result in larger fines and/or jail time. Sale and cultivation is highly regulated to medical and industrial producers. Medical marijuana was legalized in 2014 only for specific conditions and only specifically licensed dispensaries are able to distribute the drug.

So why is CBD oil exempt? The main difference between CBD oil and recreational cannabis is that the oil only contains cannabidiol, one of the component substances in the cannabis plant. The substance that produces a high and makes the plant desirable as a drug, THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), is not present in CBD products.

**Connor Kockler**  
Guest Writer



CBD has been touted as being able to help with numerous conditions and ailments. This has led to an explosion of business, with numerous specialty stores opening across the state and existing retailers adding CBD products. However, it has only been approved by the FDA to treat epilepsy as the ingredient in a drug named Epidiolex. Thus, any health benefits claimed by CBD oil are vague at best until more research is completed.

In addition to bringing cannabis products on the general market for the first time, the debate around medical marijuana and CBD oil has raised the discussion of full-scale legalization in Minnesota. Earlier this year, a new law was proposed in the Legislature that would allow Minnesotans over the age of 21 to possess, buy and grow certain amounts of cannabis. Gov. Walz has also stated legalized cannabis could be a new source of tax revenue and reduce how many people are in jail for drug offenses if done correctly.

On the other side of the debate, Republicans in the Minnesota Senate have

largely opposed such moves, arguing not enough has been seen from the states that have legalized cannabis so far, and questioning legalization while the opioid crisis is also ongoing. There are also concerns about driving under the influence of cannabis and whether it is a gateway to other, harder drugs.

A step in a positive direction in my view will be a tour of 15 cities that House Democrats will be making in the coming weeks to talk about the cannabis legalization process. It will also include a stop in St. Cloud on Oct. 12. I think it's important people across the state are consulted and know the facts about cannabis before any legalization effort is pursued.

With CBD oil growing in popularity, I think we as Minnesotans should start thinking about the benefits and risks potential recreational cannabis use could entail. With Republicans and Democrats squaring off over the issue, this also could easily be something to factor into your voting decision in 2020. Ultimately, if legalization does occur, we should be making a decision and crafting laws that will keep people safe while allowing for regulated and secure commerce.

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, Sept. 6**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

**Monday, Sept. 9**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

**Sartell Farmers Market,** 3-6 p.m., Bernick’s Arena parking lot, 1109 First St. S., Sartell, market-monday.org.

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

**Tuesday, Sept. 10**  
**Sartell Chamber of Commerce,** 11:30 a.m., Waters Church, 1227 Pinecone Road. 320-258.6061. info@sartellchamber.com.

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

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

**Le Sauk Township town board,**

7 p.m., Town Hall, 220 Fourth Ave., S., Sartell.

**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.

**Wednesday, Sept. 11**  
**Breakfast Club,** 9-10 a.m., Stear-n’s History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. Author Phyllis Cole-Dai will discuss her book “Beneath the Same Stars.” Free for members, nominal fee for nonmembers. 320-253-8424.

**Sartell-St. Stephen school board work session,** 7 p.m., Dis-trict Office, 212 Third Ave., N., Sartell

**Thursday, Sept. 12**  
**Terebinth Refuge breakfast fundraiser** to support shelter for sexually exploited and trafficked women and youth in Central Min-nesota7:30-9 a.m., Regency Plaza, 912 St. Germain St., St. Cloud.

**Coffee and Conversation,** a se-nior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sar-tell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Life coach Cindy Staiger, “What is Wellness Coaching?”

**MOMS Club monthly social,** 9-10:30 a.m., Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

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

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

**Blue Mass for first responders,** celebrated by Bishop Donald Ket-ler, 7 p.m., St. Mary’s Cathedral, 25 Eighth Ave. S., St. Cloud.

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

**Saturday, Sept. 14**  
**Sartell High School grand opening and community open house,** 11 a.m., 3101 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

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

**Sunday, Sept. 15**  
**Stearns County Sheriff’s Office Explorers program information meeting** for youth ages 15-21, 6 p.m. Attendees are requested to RSVP to Deputy Eric Schultz by email at eric.schultz@co.stearns.mn.us.

**Monday, Sept. 16**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.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, market-monday.org.

**Sartell-St. Stephen school board meeting,** 6:30 p.m., District Office, 212 Third Ave., N., Sartell.

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

**Tuesday, Sept. 17**  
**Mobile office hours,** 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell City Hall. A casework-er from Rep. Tom Emmer’s office will be available to handle issues with federal government services.

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

**Dementia Friends information session,** 1-2 p.m., Sartell Commu-nity Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell. Learn what dementia is, what it’s like to live with the disease and communicate with people who have dementia.

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

**Brockway Township town board meeting,** 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 43710 85th Ave. N.

**Wednesday, Sept. 18**  
**SALT (Seniors and Law En-forcement Together),** 9 a.m., Sar-tell 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, Sept. 19**

**Coffee and Conversation,** a se-nior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Becky Davis, organizing for life transitions.

**American Legion-Sartell,** open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Sartell Community Center., 850 19th St. S. john.denney@char-ter.net.

**MOPS, Mothers of Preschool-ers monthly social,** 6:30-8:30 p.m., Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

**Friday, Sept. 20**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhis-tory.org.

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

**Saturday, Sept. 21**  
**Franktoberfest Parish Festival,** 5-9 p.m. St. Franics Xavier Catholic Community. Music by Dave Lumley.

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

**Sunday, Sept. 22**  
**Car Show and Spaghetti Meal for Bri’s Lodge,** 11 a.m., Trobec’s in St. Stephen. Free-will offering for meal to support What Would Bri Do.

**Waffle Breakfast,** 8 a.m.- noon, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Com-munity.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
Lifetime Gun & Coin Collection Auction – 10 am, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019. Guns, sporting goods, gold coins and much more. Old 20 Auc-tions, 1949 210th St., Manchester, IA, 563-927-2900.  
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# 2019-20 Sabres Activities Schedule



Sartell-St. Stephen school district invites the community to attend our activities throughout the year. We offer many options for Sartell High School students to become involved. Below are some dates for our programs. For up-to-date schedules, please visit [www.sartell-sabres.com](http://www.sartell-sabres.com) or [www.sartell.k12.mn.us/calendar](http://www.sartell.k12.mn.us/calendar).

Other activities that begin later in the year and have schedules posted at a later time are as follows:



Knowledge Bowl  
Mock Trial – State entry  
Robotics Club  
TARGET  
Visual Arts Competition  
Math League  
Speech

Fall Band, Choir and Orchestra Concert	Oct. 14	6 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
Fall Band, Choir and Orchestra Concert	Oct. 14	8 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
Fall Play: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Nov. 7	7 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
Fall Play: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Nov. 8	7 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
Fall Play: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Nov. 9	2 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
Winter Band and Orchestra Concert	Dec. 9	7:30 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
Winter Choir Concert	Dec. 16	7:30 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
One-Act Play Performance	Jan. 21	7 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
Jazz Swing Dance	Jan. 27	7 p.m.	Sartell High School Commons
Band and Orchestra Concert	March 2	7:30 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
Sabre Showcase	March 10	7 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
Choir Concert	March 16	7:30 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
<i>Spring Musical</i>	April 30	7 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
<i>Spring Musical</i>	May 1	7 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
<i>Spring Musical</i>	May 2	2 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
<i>Spring Musical</i>	May 2	7 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
Sartell Middle School and Sartell High School Jazz Extravaganza	May 4	7 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
Spring Band and Orchestra Concert	May 11	7:30 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center
Spring Choir Concert	May 18	7:30 p.m.	High School Performing Arts Center

For information on these events and more, visit [sartell-sabres.com](http://sartell-sabres.com).

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