

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

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Est. 1989

Town Crier

Students will return to campuses this fall

The College of St. Benedict and St. John's University plan to reopen their campuses with the first day of classes scheduled for Aug. 31, subject to state and federal health guidelines. Both campuses have plans for testing, tracing and, as needed, separating. Places for isolation and quarantine have been identified and there will be rules for physical distancing and building access.

Election judges needed!

The City of St. Joseph is hiring election judges for the upcoming primary election on Aug. 11 and the general election on Nov. 3. Election judges earn \$15/hour. No experience is necessary. All training will be provided. Further information and application are available on the city website www.cityofstjoseph.com. You can also contact Kayla at the city at 320-229-9421.

Planning your garden?

Consider planting an extra row in your garden and donating the produce to your local food shelf. Favorites include carrots, beans, beets, kohlrabi, corn, potatoes, cabbage, peppers, onions and asparagus. Any produce that has a longer shelf life is accepted. Call Catholic Charities Emergency Services at 320-229-4560; CROSS Center at 320-968-7012; and The Salvation Army at 320-252-4552.

Masks still needed

The need for masks continues. Make and donate cloth masks for at-risk community members. Completed masks can be dropped off Coborn's, 900 Cooper Ave. S., St. Cloud, behind the service counter during store hours and at Whitney Senior Center West Door (1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud) in the covered bin marked MASKS. The bin will be available Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Contact Mary Krippner 320-223-7991.

Newsleaders seeks GoFundMe donations

During these turbulent times, advertising support has dwindled. The Newsleaders wants to continue providing up-to-the-minute local coverage both on our website and in print. Please help support the Newsleaders by viewing/contributing to our GoFundMe page on Facebook. Thank you to our recent contributors! Any amount is greatly appreciated.

Restaurants, bars ease into outdoor service

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A certain amount of downtown vitality might soon return to St. Joseph starting Monday, June 1, when some bars and restaurants will start offering outdoor service.

Business owners' and managers' plans to open their services ranged from no to probably not, from maybe to definitely yes.

Gov. Tim Walz announced the state's restaurants and bars could offer outdoor dining op-

tions starting June 1, with safety rules and regulations, including no more than 50 customers at one time and with a strict provision for social distancing at the outdoor tables, meaning each must be 6 feet away from another.

The following establishments responded to questions about reopening.

Bello Cucina
15 Minnesota Street E.

"We're ready to go," said owner Jason Mueller. "We have a big outdoor patio, and we can also use the front sidewalk

because the city (council) gave permission to do that."

Ever since the virus crisis began, Bello Cucina, like many other restaurants in the area and elsewhere, offered take-out orders and curbside pick-up service. It was a way to hang in there by the skin of their teeth and pay some bills until other "safe" solutions were found.

"We already have had safe practices," Mueller said. "Hand sanitizer, hand washing stations. Masks will be optional, but staff are not required to wear them. The cook staff are

not allowed to wear them because of liability issues if the masks catch fire or if they interfere with vision and somebody falls."

The only provision Bello Cucina doesn't have yet but soon will are sidewalk/patio stickers to remind diners to keep 6 feet from one another.

The virus crises, Mueller noted, has been very tough on restaurants, adding he wishes the state could delay payment of property taxes for more months.

Ease • page 2



photo by Mike Knaak

Memorial day

Many traditional Memorial Day events were canceled this year. St. Cloud area Metrovets conducted a scaled-down event at the Veterans Plaza at St. Cloud's Municipal Athletic Complex. Dennis Schiffler of Waite Park American Legion Post 428 plays taps while the post's rifle squad stands at attention.

Flour & Flower artisan bakery opens

by Mike Knaak
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Flour & Flower bakery, one half of a new St. Joseph food destination, opened last week and its partner business, Krewe, plans to offer a pickup menu starting this weekend.

Serving artisan breads and pastries, fresh-cut flowers and coffee, Flour & Flower is open Wednesday through Sunday from 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

"Nothing smells better than fresh bread, fresh flowers and a fresh cup of coffee," said Erin Lucas, who co-owns the bakery and Krewe with Mateo Mackbee.

Flour & Flower sells pizzas from 5-8:30 p.m. on Mondays from the shop at 26 College Ave. N.

Lucas says she takes recipes she's been taught from her Czech and Irish heritage and then makes them her own. Each day's offerings are listed on the bakery's Facebook page.

The menu changes daily with a variety of breads and pastries. The lineup earlier this week included lemon kolacky, rhubarb and ginger croissants, sourdough bread and Vollkornbrot - a German rye bread.

The pastries feature locally sourced, seasonal fruit such as rhubarb.



photo by Mike Knaak

A customer orders from the counter at Flour & Flower bakery that opened last week in St. Joseph.

When Krewe is fully running, Lucas will create pastries to go with chef Mackbee's

Cajun/Creole cooking for the restaurant next door to the bakery.

Interim CSB president named

Laurie Hamen has been named the interim president of the College of St. Benedict. She will take office on July 1, replacing Mary Hinton.

Hamen recently served as president at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, since February 2014.

Hamen has more than 30 years of experience in student affairs, enrollment management, academics, athletics and grant procurement. She returns to the College of St. Benedict, having served as the dean of students from 1992 to 1996.

Prior to joining Mount Mercy

President • page 2



Hamen

Ease

from front page

"Those (taxes) are a big chunk of change," he said. **Taco John's, 211 CR 75 W.**

There won't be any noticeable changes at Taco John's come June 1, said Michole Tobler, assistant manager.

"The lobby will still be open for ordering, but there will still be no inside dining, of course," she said. "We've always had drive-thru service and lobby ordering. And we do have only one picnic table outside."

Tobler said it is so eerie when the streets and highway past St. Joseph are so quiet and empty of traffic at certain times of day or night.

"This (governor's) plan is all so new," she said. "Maybe, once the plans are better understood, there might be ways to have more outdoor dining."

Masks are not required at Taco John's.

"It's very hard to do work with them on, especially when it's hot," Tobler said.

Subway, 217 CR 75 NW

Subway, as now and before, has always had ordering in the lobby, and that will continue. But, other than that, there will be no changes, no outdoor dining options.

Bo Diddley's, 19 College Ave.

Bo Diddley's Pub and Deli will put picnic-type tables outside the business for outdoor dining, with safe spacing de-

finied table to table.

Sal's Bar, 109 Minnesota St.

"Well, we might do it," said long-time owner Dale Schneider. "We might put more tables and chairs outside. But we still haven't decided if it will be worth it."

In the past few months, Sal's has always been open for food take-out and curb-side pickup. If food is offered for outside dining, with social distancing, alcohol refreshments could also be served – outside.

Schneider said bars and residents have taken a big hit since the virus crisis began, and he is worried many might not make it through the crunch.

"This bar has been here for 73 years," he said. "My dad had it for 25 years, and I've owned and operated it with son Kyle for 48 years."

President

from front page

University, Hamen was vice president for enrollment management, athletics and student affairs at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois for nearly 18 years.

Hamen holds a Juris Doctorate from DePaul University College of Law in Chicago. She completed Ph.D. coursework in educational administration at the University of Minnesota and holds a master's degree from Winona State University. She earned her undergraduate degree from St. Catherine University in St. Paul.

Legislative session ends with no funding for St. Joseph

by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleaders.com

Minnesota's legislators ended their regular session without approving a bonding bill that included money for St. Joseph's Community Center, but there's still hope for money this year.

Legislators are likely to return to St. Paul on June 12 and a \$2 billion bonding bill for projects throughout the state will probably be on the agenda.

Before adjournment, a House bonding bill failed to achieve the necessary three-fifths majority for approval. The bill was defeated along a party-line vote, 75-58, with Republicans voting no. It needed 81 votes to pass.

That bill included \$4 mil-

lion toward the estimated \$16 million Community Center price tag. The remaining money would come from a capital fundraising campaign and revenue from the city's half-cent sales tax.

The Community Center would be created by renovating and expanding the old Kennedy School. Planners see the project as a space for residents of all ages to connect. Additionally, the Jacob Wetterling Recreational Center would be part of the center as a space for young people to gather and as a resource for health and wellness. Recreational facilities could include basketball, pickleball and volleyball courts, an elevated walking track, a climbing wall and locker rooms.

House Republicans followed the threat of Minority Leader Kurt Daudt, to withhold his party's votes unless Gov. Tim Walz relinquished the emergency powers he's used to direct the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Daudt also criticized the cost of the bonding package while the state faces declining tax revenue and surging expenses related to the health crisis.

Leaders in the Senate, controlled by Republicans, did not link their \$998-million bonding bill to the governor's powers. The Senate bill also includes the Community Center money.

When the legislators return, both houses will need to craft and approve bonding bills that the governor will sign.

Blotter

May 8

9:44 a.m. Theft. Cedar Street E. Complainant reported a theft from his truck of six lottery tickets valued at \$100 between May 5 and May 8. Tools and other items were not taken.

May 14

12:25 p.m. Ordinance violation. First Avenue NW. Garbage was placed on a yard more than 24 hours before the citywide cleanup. The owner said it was not intended for the pickup but she intended to give it away. She said she would put a "free" sign on the items that included a grill, mechanic stool and a dog crate.

May 15

1:08 a.m. Ordinance violation. CR 75 W. An officer observed five vehicles and people playing basketball at Millstream Park. The officer advised them that the park closes at 10 p.m. and they left.

1:08 p.m. Ordinance violation. Third Avenue SE. A caller reported two trailers parked behind 117 Third Ave. SE. The parking ordinance allows one trailer. The owner of the group home said one trailer would be moved by the end of the week.

1:17 p.m. Junk vehicle. Second Avenue SE. An officer checked the complaint of a vehicle that appeared to be inoperable and had expired plates behind 106 Second Ave. SE. The vehicle was parked near the alley. A junk vehicle letter will be sent to the owner of the property.

May 16

12:53 p.m. Collision. CR 2 and Minnesota Street W. One vehicle was heading west on Minnesota Street to turn south on CR 2. A motorcycle was northbound on CR 2. The driver of the vehicle pulled out in front of the motorcycle and the motorcyclist swerved into the southbound lane to avoid a collision. The motorcycle clipped the vehicle's front bumper but the rider was able to keep it upright. There were no injuries.

May 19

3:09 p.m. Dumping complaint. Birch Street W. Eleven mattresses and two love seats were dumped on the property at 110 Birch St. W. The owner believed they were dumped by tenants of a nearby retail property. The city requested Republic pick them up during the citywide cleanup.

People

Claire Hagen, daughter of Susie and Brian Hagen, St. Joseph, was among the Top Ten 2020 graduates from Cathedral High School. She plans to pursue a degree in nursing from North Dakota State University, Fargo.



Hagen

Anna Penticuff, daughter of Jennifer Beste and Steve Penticuff, Avon, was among the Top Ten 2020 graduates from Cathedral High School. She plans to major in biology at Seattle (Washington) University.



Penticuff

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Pundsack retiring after 42 years of teaching

by Cori Hilsen

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Not everyone can say they have been employed at the same place for more than 40 years, but Betty Pundsack can.

After 44 years of teaching, 42 at St. Joseph Catholic School, and two at St. Mary's in Melrose, Pundsack will retire at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

When she decided to retire, she did not know her last year would be during a school closure with online distance learning experiences resulting from the Covid-19 virus pandemic spreading throughout the world.

Pundsack has remained a constant at the St. Joseph school by continuously teaching second grade during the 42 years. However, Pundsack has seen some changes during her years of teaching and has learned to adapt to those changes.

Having worked in St. Joseph for the past four decades Pundsack said she has learned so much from her experience of being among the residents of this "great town."

"I have had the privilege to laugh and celebrate with you and to cry and mourn with you," Pundsack said. "I have witnessed a few changes in this community, too. I recall going to Linneman's after school to pick up the daily paper, having my car serviced at Stueve's Garage, picking up goldfish at the little pet store on College Avenue and taking our students bowling at the El Paso. Even the school I've taught at has had changes. I first worked at St. Joseph Lab School, then at All Saints Acad-

emy-St. Joseph campus and now at St. Joseph Catholic School, all within the same building. A big change comes as my time as (a) teacher comes to a close. I'm doing distance learning from my home via the internet. But through it all, the thing that hasn't changed is the fabric of what makes the community of St. Joseph so amazing."

Pundsack was honored on Feb. 22 at the school's third annual Fellowship dinner.

Many past students share a common thread of stories about Pundsack such as her love of playing volleyball and softball, performing cartwheels, teaching J-Term bird classes, taking care of classroom pets and gathering pumpkins.

Most Catholic students who attended the school prepared to receive their First Holy Communion under Pundsack's instructions and celebrated with a special meal afterward.

Under her guidance, students learned about caring for plants and animals and caring for each other.

Teachers and staff who have worked with her at the school also share some common stories about her sense of humor and thoughtful gestures.

Sixth-grade teacher Susan Huls remembers the year she started teaching at the school, 1990, that Pundsack was on a sabbatical. After hearing about Pundsack from other teachers, Huls said she was a little intimidated by the thought of this larger-than-life woman, who others admired and respected and who her students adored. Huls was excited to be able to work with

her, even though she sounded too perfect to be real.

"When I finally met her the next fall, I immediately became one of her admirers," Huls said. "Her big grin and easy-going ways made me immediately comfortable. She was very real."

Huls said Pundsack, music teacher Mary Schumann, herself and former principal Susan Scipioni (when she was working at the school), really became a team, and being a part of their team at Masses was one of Huls' joys.

"You can tell that planning and participating in our school Masses is one of Betty's greatest joys, too," Huls said. "One of my favorite prayer services (instituted by Betty, of course), is our Emmaus Day after Easter. With the symbols of fire, water and bread, Betty helps the kids understand more about the Easter Vigil they might have attended with their parents. That morning as we gather in a darkened space, she lights a bowl with the Easter flame/flare (with a bit of Pundsack flair), then has the kids sprinkle us with water, sends a loaf of bread to each of our classrooms so we can tell our own 'Emmaus stories.'"

Every year Huls has taken the sixth-graders to environmental camp, Pundsack has surprised her with a thoughtful, admiring card and a bag of goodies to tide her over. The bags have included tea bags, chocolate bars and Diet Coke.

For many years, teachers at the school have had an end-of-the-year prayer service, planned and led by Pundsack. During this service, they sang songs and

shared their summer plans.

Huls shared that her son, Sean, who just completed medical school, wanted her to let Pundsack know she was his favorite teacher.

Fifth-grade teacher Tess Koltes said Pundsack's birthday was two days after her oldest son, Andy's birthday. After Pundsack taught Andy as a second-grade student, they commented on how close their birthdays were to each other. For the next 27 years, Pundsack remembered Andy's birthday and would tell Koltes to wish him a Happy Birthday.

A few days before Andy's wedding, Pundsack gifted Koltes with a Mom of the Groom bag. It was a small drawstring bag filled with sample containers of hair spray, deodorant, breath mints,

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contributed photo

Betty Pundsack is retiring from St. Joseph Catholic School at the end of this school year. She has taught more than 800 students during the 42 years she has been teaching second-grade at the school.



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Pundsack

from page 3

gum, a couple of safety pins, a couple of Band-Aids and a nice note.

"She always celebrated the events which happened in her colleague's lives," Koltes said.

School administrative assistant Linda Heinen said Pundsack is known to have a fantastic memory, is very thoughtful and has a strong faith.

Pundsack estimates she has taught more than 800 second-graders at the school since 1978.

"I want to offer my appreciation and gratitude for being among you these many years," she said. "I plan to still be close by but as with most things, it won't be the same. There will always be a special place in my heart for each of you."

In 2017, Pundsack experienced a cardiac event at the school.

"Speaking of heart, literally, I owe my very life to the many persons who came to my aid on April 10, 2017, when I suffered

a cardiac arrest just before the school day began," she said.

"Three former students of mine, who are on the Fire and Rescue Squad for the city, the Police Department and two parents in the medical profession from our school worked to resuscitate and administer the (Automated External Defibrillator) while countless others prayed. I don't remember anything from that morning until April 15, when I was told what had happened. It is humbling to live through an experience so life-threatening and know that I was given a second chance."

Pundsack grew up in St.

Cloud and attended St. Peter's Grade School and Cathedral High School in St. Cloud. She received an undergraduate degree in elementary education and art education and a graduate degree in curriculum development from St. Cloud State University.

She and her husband, Gene, have been married 42 years and live on their "piece of paradise," 40 acres near Duelm.

"Yes, I've driven all the way to St. Jo(seph) all those years and I think we've gone through four cars during that time, but also have had no accidents or speeding tickets," Pundsack said.

Wood-Fired Wednesdays will look different than planned

by Cori Hilsgen
news@thenewsleaders.com

Rolling Ridge Wedding and Event Center owner Randy Schmitz had planned to open mid-May this year for Wood-Fired Wednesdays, but like many other businesses, was not able to do so because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Schmitz said four months of his wedding business has vanished.

Until he can open for business again, Schmitz offered his patrons some musical entertainment and encouraged them to have some fun and gather in groups of 10 or less on their patios, enjoy some adult beverages and listen to some live-stream music.

Along with sponsor J.F. Kruse Jewelers, he also offered viewers a chance to win a free piece of unique jewelry by watching the screen to upload their best "patio group selfie" and unique #hashtag. Photos were judged for most creative group selfie and most creative hashtag for their selfie.

On his Facebook message, Schmitz said summer will be a little different for everyone and he is working to create an event that is safe and enjoyable for everyone.

He plans to open June 3 and will discontinue live streaming musical entertainment at that time. The in-person Wood-Fired

Wednesdays events might include a fee. Patrons should continue to check the Rolling Ridge website and Facebook page for updates.

Schmitz has partnered with Custom Catering by Shortstop for food and beverages for all of the center's events and Dave Lumley coordinates the musicians for Wednesday events.

Wood-Fired Wednesdays were started in 2017 as a monthly event to offer consumers a chance to view the property before their special event. It then became a twice a month event and now is usually weekly.

On Wednesdays, rain or shine, this year from mid-May to September, Schmitz hosts Wood-Fired Wednesdays from 4-9 p.m. at the event center. These casual events usually include live acoustic music, Neopolitan style pizzas and adult beverages. If it rains, the event is moved into the barn and lounge.

Residents Jeny and Mike Meyer and Mary Bruno have attended Wood-Fired Wednesdays at the event center.

"Mike and I have attended several times," Jeny said. "We have gone out there for date night, just the two of us, but we've also met groups of friends using their resolvable VIP (very important person) tables, perfect to reconnect over the busy summer. The beautiful surroundings are fantastic, and then when you add live music

it's just so easy to feel like you can make the most of a mid-week night out in the summer."

"The Wood-Fired Wednesdays over at Rolling Ridge are absolutely brilliant," Mary Bruno said. "I brought a group over one sunny day to see Wanda Jam. The folks at Rolling Ridge truly have thought of everything and even though it was packed with people, there was plenty of room to park, everyone had a seat, and the food and beverages were wonderful. This is a really dialed in event that is perfect for friends, families, and a great date night."

Rolling Ridge Wedding and Event Center is a short distance from the main traffic on CR 75 at 31101 CR 133 in St. Joseph.

This secluded, historical, charming and modern event venue with some exceptional features offers a private option for people celebrating weddings and other special lifetime events.

On 14 acres, the venue includes a historic 1890s tamarack timber barn that has hand-scraped wood floors, vintage crystal chandeliers and can seat 300 people.

Buildings are climate controlled and insulated with heating and air conditioning. The property is wheelchair accessible.

Schmitz has many stories to share about this popular venue.

Wood-fired • page 6



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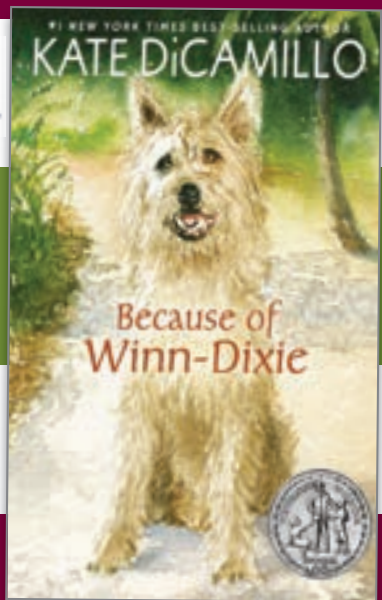
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Pet Ownership Statistics

Pet owners form a collective community focused on one thing: the health and safety of their animal friends. There is a strong bond between people who fall into this category, and it's fun to see how others became so involved in pet ownership.

Here are some recent statistics reported by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the American Veterinary Medical Association:

- About 70 to 80 million dogs and 74 to 96 million cats are owned in the United States. Up to 47 percent of all households in the United States have a dog, and up to 37 percent have a cat.
- Approximately 40 percent of pet owners learned about their pet through word of mouth.

- The majority of pets are obtained from acquaintances and family members. About 28 percent of dogs are purchased from breeders, and 29 percent of cats and dogs are adopted from shelters and rescues.

- More than 35 percent of cats are acquired as strays.
- The most common reasons why people relinquish or give away their dogs is because their place of residence does not allow pets (29 percent). The most common reasons for cats are that they were not allowed in the resi-

dence (21 percent) and allergies (11 percent).

- The average number of litters a fertile cat produces is one to two a year; the average number of kittens is four to six per litter.

- The average number of litters a fertile dog produces is one a year; the average number of puppies is four to six.

- Only 10 percent of the animals received by shelters have been spayed or neutered, while 83 percent of pet dogs and 91 percent of pet cats are spayed or neutered.

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Wood-Fired

from page 4

Last year he hosted more than 60 weddings at the center and said he was on track to host about the same number again this year before Covid-19. Almost 90 percent of the events hosted at the center are weddings.

"It is not uncommon that we book a venue for a couple that

isn't even engaged yet so they can get a date on the books," he said.

Schmitz opened the event center in September 2015. It is on property that Jerome and Dorene Rennie were recognized for being a Century Farm. Established in 1887, the Rennie family farm was recognized in 1991 as a Century Farm and having been in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years.

Schmitz, who grew up in the Sauk Rapids area, said his

grandparents lived on farms near the Jacobs Prairie and Roscoe/St. Martin areas. When his family visited his grandparents for holidays and during the summer, they often drove past the Rennie Farm and he said he "always admired it."

When Schmitz first decided to purchase the property, his goal was to also reside on the property. However, establishing his business at the location required changing that plan.

When he purchased the property, it was annexed to the city and the property which had been zoned as agricultural was then zoned as commercial.

"It was a little bit more of a riskier financial decision than I

had hoped for," Schmitz said. "It was a challenge because it had been in the Rennie family for so long and we had to deal with changes to the property surveying techniques over time, dealing with fence lines and more."

They needed to legally settle discrepancies.

He closed on the purchase of the property one week after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Schmitz said he had spent a great deal of time and money to close on the property before Sept. 11 and the purchase almost didn't happen.

"As I did many times in my life, I took a calculated risk," he said.

After purchasing the property, Schmitz moved Scenic Specialties Landscape Company to the site. The business, which he started in 1997, has merged with a former employee, Ben Stockinger, who is now the owner and lead designer. The business does landscape design, installation, professional maintenance of the gardens which the business has landscaped and specialty commercial snow removal.

Schmitz started the landscape business from his college dorm/apartment while he was attending Central Lakes College in Brainerd. After obtaining an Associate of Applied Science degree in horticulture and a diploma in landscape technology, he then set up his business at Thomsen Greenhouse and Garden Center at 29754 156th Ave., St. Joseph, with Bob and Bonnie Thomsen, who have since sold their business and retired. Stockinger also graduated from

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May God **bless** you and **keep** you, may God's loving face **shine** upon you and be **gracious** to you, may God look upon you **kindly** and **give** you peace.

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Central Lakes College.

When Schmitz opened the center in 2015, he had previously planned other special events and was still trying to determine what his vision for the property was.

"We had been involved with many events beforehand, so things just sort of melded together in terms of it making sense as to why this landscape guy would become this wedding guy," Schmitz said. "One of the things we knew we wanted to do was to offer exposure of our event center to the public."

Restoring the property to his

vision required more work than Schmitz had anticipated. After researching required changes, he discovered it would be a "hefty process both in time involvement and figuring everything out."

Because of the history and the craftsmanship of the barn built in the 1800s, Schmitz did not want to destroy it and build a new building, even though the vast majority of contractors he consulted with recommended removing the barn, salvaging components of it, and repurposing them within a new structure.

The restoration of the barn

included lifting it and moving it from its foundation to a new location. It was moved, turned and placed on a new foundation of poured concrete walls.

He said he has never put a price tag on the restoration because they had invested so much in the property during the years before opening the event venue, but said it was certainly more than \$1 million.

Schmitz said his success with the event venue has included both luck and vision.

When he opened Rolling Ridge Wedding and Event Center, Schmitz decided to get out

of the retail business part of Scenic Specialties, using the restoration as a chance to liquidate items.

Unlike other places that host special public events, when Schmitz discontinued the retail business, people were no longer able to view the place before their special event.

"We wanted to be able to market the venue and soon realized people wanted a way to be able to view the space before their special event," he said.

Wood-Fired Wednesdays were started to give consumers a chance to view the property

before their special event.

Schmitz and his wife, Nancy, reside in St. Joseph and have three children Lily, 13, Sylvie, 10, and Wylie, 8. Lily attends Sartell Middle School and Sylvie and Wylie attend St. Joseph Catholic School.

Nancy graduated from St. Cloud Technical & Community College and works as a certified ophthalmic assistant at Centra-Care Eye Clinic in Sartell.

For additional information about Wood-Fired Wednesdays or the Center, visit Facebook.com/woodfiredwednesdays or RollingRidgeEvents.com.

CONGRATULATIONS!

APOLLO

Nura Abdulkader
Jama Abdullahi
Osamah Al Sharmani
Serena Andreasen
Lily Clark
Sean Cooney
Jaylen Devose
Feysal Doyow
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Patrick Geislinger
Mason Grams
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Sam Holthaus
Hafso Hussein
Ali Ibrahim
Eryka Jansen
Vanessa Jaromnes
Haley Joos
Heather Kirchner
Mackenzie Lee

Kathryn Lygre
Maleah Marsaw
Joshua Quinn
Logan Quinn
Isaac Ramirez
Jenna Robideaux
Jayda Saatzer
Zachary Schiltz
Kandra Schmitz
Kathryn Schmitz
Cole Schwegel
Jacob Smith

Bryce Stewart
Andrew Theisen
Makayla Thelen
Jacob Venske
Jhonatan Villalta
Travis Warner
Trevor Weisser
Hunter Wills
Maison Zimmer



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Mohammed Abdi
Kailee Berg-Kalscheuer
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Miguel Gideon
Jordyn Notch

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Jaydon Brattensborg
Vanessa Burianova
Alisha Gill
Claire Hagen
Jack Latterell
Haley Moog

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Mikayla Eisenschenk
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Andrew Weisser
Mason Wolf

Vaniesa Orjansen
Nicholas Ramberg
Amber Jo Traut
Brandon Wise

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FINANCE GUIDE | THINKING AHEAD

Long-Term Planning

The effects of your financial decisions can be felt for many years to come — even for generations — so it's critical to think about how you will support and supplement your family members after you're gone.

From building a last will and testament to making sure you're carrying enough life insurance, there are many simple things you can do today to prepare for a brighter financial future for you and your family.

CREATE A WILL

A 2019 survey from Caring.com, a senior living directory company, found that only 40% of Americans actually have a will, but nearly 80% of respondents said having a will was important.

One of the best ways to set your family members up for success after you're gone is to set up your will while you're here. Help your family members avoid confusion or fights about what you've left behind by working with your local attorney now to create an airtight contract.

Your legal professional will be able to walk you through the best practices of building a will and divvying up your assets appropriately. Be sure to discuss your plans with



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your spouse or any relevant family members before settling on a final version of your will.

They may be able to help you think of things that may be missing or help you avoid any family conflicts that could pop up related to the content of your will.

CONSIDER LIFE INSURANCE

Life insurance is another great way of caring for your family. Term and whole life insurance policies offer varying levels of protection, so talk with a local broker to determine the best life insurance plans for you and your family.

Here are some questions to ask your life insurance broker:

- How much coverage do I need?
- How much should I pay for life insurance?
- What are the different types of policies for which I can qualify?

How much life insurance you need depends on your personal situation. If you have no dependents, you probably don't need life insurance. If you aren't the primary breadwinner for your family, an expensive life insurance policy probably doesn't make sense.



Times have changed.

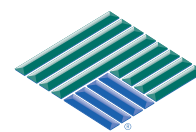
Life looks different for everyone these days.

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Opinion

Our View

Don't tie Postal Service funding, fees to politics

In 1775, when the Continental Congress appointed Benjamin Franklin the first postmaster general, the challenges facing today's post office could hardly be imagined.

The U.S. Postal Service is one of few federal agencies explicitly authorized by the Constitution. It is legally obligated to serve all Americans, regardless of geography, at uniform price and quality.

"Price and quality" are at the heart of the current debate about post office funding. The Postal Service faces yet again another budget crisis resulting from fewer First Class letters, mandated contributions to pensions and an obligation to deliver to every mailbox, no matter how remote and expensive to reach.

Congress needs to act on Postal Service funding and at the same time there should be an independent audit to determine appropriate postage rates.

The Postal Service confronts several financial challenges. More people emailing and fewer people licking stamps means less revenue. In 2006, Congress passed a law to require the USPS to pre-fund 75 years worth of retiree health benefits in the span of 10 years – a cost of approximately \$110 billion. Although the money is intended to be set aside for future postal retirees, the funds are instead being diverted to help pay down the national debt.

Unlike FedEx or UPS, the Postal Service must deliver to every address. It costs the same to mail a letter across town (although hardly anyone does that anymore) than it does to mail a friend in Hawaii or Key West.

Unlike military bases, national parks or NASA launch sites, every congressional district has post offices. No member of congress wants to shut down, raise the price or cut the services of this ubiquitous and popular public service. A survey by the Pew Research Center finds at a time when only a tiny fraction of people surveyed believe the federal government does the right thing most of the time, 90 percent of respondents have a favorable opinion of the Postal Service, a higher rating than any other agency.

Now the public health crisis means the post office is more important than ever. We buy more online and many people depend on mail delivery of prescriptions. When you buy from Amazon and other online retailers, it's a good bet FedEx or UPS hands off that package to the Postal Service to be delivered the last mile to your house.

With a general election months away, Congress and many state officials who run voting see mail-in ballots as a safe, fraud-free way of making sure every person can vote without risking their health. Some 45 states, including Minnesota, allow some form of voting by mail. Before the pandemic struck the United States, five states – Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Utah and Washington – conducted their elections using a vote-by-mail system. Other states are now acting to increase vote-by-mail options.

Unfortunately, these two issues – postage rates and vote by mail – collide with two of Donald Trump's pet peeves.

Amazon's owner, Jeff Bezos, also owns the Washington Post, which has a long history of holding presidents accountable (remember Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton) with aggressive, independent reporting. Trump would like to quadruple the rate Amazon pays to ship. However USPS leaders say they make money on packages and they are required by law to charge the cost of service.

More than Washington Post reporters, the prospect of voting by mail, really gets under Trump's skin. With a high voter turnout, helped in part by easier voting, he sees an abrupt and embarrassing end to his presidency.

Whether we should increase vote-by-mail options should be decided by elected officials and secretaries of state. It should not get tangled up with funding the post office.

Congress should provide short-term funding to keep the USPS operating beyond September, and meanwhile, independent analysts should take a critical look at postage rates and services and come up with a budget based on facts, not political pique.

We're not in Ben Franklin's America anymore.

We've failed to imagine pandemic victims

Mike Knaak
Editor



How old are you?
How much do you weigh?
How tall are you?
Almost from birth, we're obsessed with numbers and counting. Babies quickly learn how to count fingers and toes. As we get older, we keep counting.

What's your SAT score?
How much money do you make?
How's your 401(k) doing?
So it is with the coronavirus pandemic.

How many masks do we have? How many ventilators? How many people are in the ICU? And – how many people died today?

This past week, the virus claimed its 100,000th American life.

In reporting the daily death toll that's now around 1,200, reporters have tried to compare it with something we can relate to. We're told it equals the lives lost if five airliners crashed every day. As total deaths mounted, we learned the number exceeded Americans who died on 9/11. Then it surpassed the 7,000 soldiers who died in Afghanistan and Iraq. Next we buried more Americans than the 36,517 total deaths in the Korean War and quickly passed the 58,209 American deaths in the Vietnam War.

Last Sunday, the New York Times published the names of a 1,000 of those victims on the front page. That full newspaper page only recorded 1 percent of those who died.

Almost 3,000 people died in the 9/11 attacks. In the days that followed, we learned about the victims' lives, their families, how they died and how some of them died trying to save others.

Americans' outrage led to two wars, one of which continues 19 years later. We vowed to avenge their deaths and hold those who planned and sheltered the terrorists to account.

Standing on a pile of rubble at Ground Zero, President Bush shouted through a bull horn "I can hear you! I can hear you! The rest of the world hears you! And the people – and the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon!"

As the Covid-19 death toll climbs, where's the outrage, the sense of purpose, the national unity that followed 9/11? Why haven't we focused on the individuals who died and where's the concern to keep the rest of us safe?

Recently, Donald Trump started to question the death toll – that the numbers are inflated to make him look bad while in reality, public health experts say the toll is higher, not lower. A Florida public health official, not a politician, lost her job because she refused to manipulate death data for political purposes. Nebraska's Republican governor blocked infection and death details from the state's packing plants.

It's all about the numbers, as if hiding the actual death count means those people really didn't die.

A study by Columbia University showed 36,000 fewer people would

have died if U.S. officials would have acted just one week earlier to impose social distancing measures. Move it back a week earlier, to March 1, and 54,000 fewer Americans would have died. Trump responded, not with sympathy for the victims or reflection on policy. He attacked Columbia as a "liberal, disgraceful institution."

Numbers are crucial to how Trump sees the world – how high is the stock market, what's the trade deficit with China, what was the rating for his latest television appearance?

Health experts constantly repeat wearing a face covering, washing your hands and staying 6 feet away from others are the easiest ways we can all save lives. Yet mask opponents see those measures as a symbol of one's political or social standing. When deciding whether to follow proven public health practices, think about the individuals you may be saving...your aging parents, your friend with a compromised immune system or a child with asthma. Commit an unselfish, but inconvenient act.

A report investigating the government failures before 9/11 found the fundamental flaw was a failure of imagination. Officials failed to connect the dots to conclude that terrorists would actually hijack airliners and fly them into big buildings.

In this tragedy too, we have a failure of imagination. We have failed to imagine the faces, families and life stories behind the deaths of 100,000 of our fellow citizens. We just keep counting the numbers.

Much to honor, to mourn, on these dark days

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



These days, my neighbors and I sit on the lawn and yell at one another.

No, we're not arguing. We're doing the new normal – social distancing. But communication is difficult because we are so hard-of-hearing we're next door to deaf.

And so we sit far apart and yell our heads off.

"What did you say? I can't hear you with that TRAIN roaring by! Speak LOUDER!"

"I said, 'It's kind of humid today.'"

"WHO did WHAT today?"

"No, no, NO! HUMID. It's HUMID today."

"Oh, yeah, you're right. It IS!"

By this fall, we'll probably all be sitting there screaming at one another through those big ear funnel-trumpets or maybe by then we'll all be fitted, finally, with hearing aids. I keep hearing in my head my parents' frequent admonition of years ago when they'd have a snootful: "Nobody's gettin' any younger. And that old gray mare, she ain't what she used to be."

Thus, here we are adapting in our own ways to this new reality caused by a vicious invisible virus.

As a reporter covering CV-related stories, I'm so impressed with the many people who are adapting inventively. They are using true grit, ingenuity, creativity, makeshift methods and extraordinary kindness and courtesy toward others to ease them and others through sometimes long, lonely, anxious hours. There are parents and children all home together doing their

jobs or learning via computers as they discover and rediscover fun ways to be together, to have fun, to bond. There are dedicated teachers connecting online to at-home students. There are volunteers delivering lunches to students and to elderly and/or medically compromised folks who must self-isolate as virtual shut-ins.

The constant courage of those on the front lines of the battle against CV is awe-inspiring – all of those doctors, nurses and medical technicians who are often exhausted physically and emotionally after long work shifts.

Then there are those caught between a rock and a hard place, the ones who cannot work from home, who go to their jobs because they must go – either out of a sense of undying dedication or because they need the money, paycheck to paycheck, to pay the bills and feed their families.

Then there are those workers – oh so many of them – whose jobs have vanished or who are laid off, perhaps permanently. Millions of them have lost their health insurance along with their jobs. Imagine the terror they must be feeling. And let's also remember all the small-business owners who find themselves in a terrible financial pinch,

forcing them to let their employees go as they agonize whether or not their businesses will even survive.

Of course, even sadder than the economic devastation are all the people who have died, cut down so swiftly, so cruelly by that hideous virus: spouses, parents, grandparents, nurses, doctors, nursing-home residents, military veterans, transportation workers, even some little children. It goes on and on, this ghastly parade of death. More than 100,000 victims. And still counting.

It's impossible to fathom the sheer extent of that kind of suffering and sorrow when people are unable to comfort, to hug or to say goodbye in person to precious loved ones at the brink of death. Even the mourning process at funerals is not possible in these dark days.

This pandemic is such a heavy burden in so many complicated ways for so many people. It's no wonder – with all the pent-up anxieties – that people want to bust out of their isolation and all this social distancing and join others for a grand old time. There's nothing normal about this new normal; people are social creatures, meant to be together. Let's hope the darkness will pass, that the gloom and doom will soon be vanquished by a brimming, celebratory life force.

In the meantime, let's wear masks and continue social distancing. And let's thank and pay honor to all these everyday heroes who are finding such ingenious, generous ways in getting us all through these toughest of times.

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 29
St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph.

Monday, June 1
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.
St. Joseph City Council, 6 p.m., Government Center 75 Call-away St. E.

Wednesday, June 3
St. Cloud school board, 6:30 p.m., District Administration Of-fice, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park.

Thursday, June 4
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

Friday, June 5
St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph.

Monday, June 8
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.
St. Joseph Planning Commis-sion, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.
St. Joseph Township Board, 8 p.m., 2nd and last Monday, Township Hall, 935 College Ave. S., St. Joseph. Meeting via telecon-ference.

Thursday, June 11
St. Joseph Food Shelf, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

Friday, June 12
St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph.

PUBLIC NOTICE — CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MINNESOTA

Pursuant to Chapter 333, Minnesota Statutes, the under-signed, who is or will be con-ducting or transacting a com-mercial business in the State of Minnesota under an assumed name, hereby certifies:

1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted is: Tenacious En-terprise.

2. The stated address of the principal place of business is or will be: 838 32nd Ave. N., St. Cloud, Minn. 56303.

3. The name and street ad-dress of all persons conduct-ing business under the above assumed name including any corporations that may be con-ducting this business: Tiarynni Watkins, 838 32nd Ave. N., St. Cloud, Minn. 56303.

4. I certify I am authorized to sign this certificate and I further certify I understand by signing this certificate, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.

Dated: May 9, 2020
Filed: May 9, 2020
/s/ Tiarynni Watkins
Publish: May 15 & 29, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE — AMENDMENT TO ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MINNESOTA

Pursuant to Chapter 333, Min-nesota Statutes, the undersigned, who is or will be conducting or transacting a commercial business in the State of Minnesota under an assumed name, hereby certifies:

1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conduct-ed is: County Manor Apartments Salon.

2. The stated address of the prin-cipal place of business is or will be: 520 First St. NE, Sartell, Minn. 56377.

3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above assumed name in-cluding any corporations that may be conducting this business: Coun-try Manor Campus LLC, 520 First St. NE, Sartell, Minn. 56377.

4. This certificate is an amendme nt of Certificate of Assmed Name File Number 225854 originally filed Aug. 17, 1999.

5. I, the undersigned, certify I am authorized to sign this document. I further certify the information in this document is true and correct. I understand by signing this docu-ment, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.

Dated: Jan. 29, 2020
Filed: March 17, 2020
/s/ Laura Koford
Publish: May 29 & June 12, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE — AMENDMENT TO ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MINNESOTA

Pursuant to Chapter 333, Min-nesota Statutes, the undersigned, who is or will be conducting or transacting a commercial business in the State of Minnesota under an assumed name, hereby certifies:

1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conduct-ed is: Country Manor Apartments.

2. The stated address of the prin-cipal place of business is or will be: 520 First St. NE, Sartell, Minn. 56377.

3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above assumed name in-cluding any corporations that may be conducting this business: Coun-try Manor Campus LLC, 520 First St. NE, Sartell, Minn. 56377.

4. This certificate is an amendme nt of Certificate of Assmed Name File Number 225856 originally filed Aug. 17, 1999.

5. I, the undersigned, certify I am authorized to sign this document. I further certify the information in this document is true and correct. I understand by signing this docu-ment, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.

Dated: Jan. 29, 2020
Filed: March 17, 2020
/s/ Laura Koford
Publish: May 29 & June 12, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE — AMENDMENT TO ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MINNESOTA

Pursuant to Chapter 333, Min-nesota Statutes, the undersigned, who is or will be conducting or transacting a commercial business in the State of Minnesota under an assumed name, hereby certifies:

1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conduct-ed is: Kids Country Child Care and Learning Center.

2. The stated address of the prin-cipal place of business is or will be: 520 First St. NE, Sartell, Minn. 56377.

3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above assumed name in-cluding any corporations that may be conducting this business: Coun-try Manor Campus LLC, 520 First St. NE, Sartell, Minn. 56377.

4. This certificate is an amendme nt of Certificate of Assmed Name File Number 225858 originally filed Aug. 17, 1999.

5. I, the undersigned, certify I am authorized to sign this document. I further certify the information in this document is true and correct. I understand by signing this docu-ment, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Minnesota Statutes section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.

Dated: Jan. 29, 2020
Filed: March 17, 2020
/s/ Laura Koford
Publish: May 29 & June 12, 2020

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Over \$10K in Debt? Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 855-995-1557. (MCN)

FOR SALE
Trailer Sale, 15 dump trailers, Skid loader trailers, single-axle utility trailers (Steel & Aluminum.) 6’X12 V-nose cargo \$3,199.00; 7’X16 V-nose cargo \$5,199.00. 3-Horse Aluminum Slant, For Prices & information: www. FortDodgeTrailerWorld.com or 515-972-4554. (MCN)

HEALTH & MEDICAL
Stay in your home longer with an American Standard Walk-In Bathtub. Receive up to \$1,500 off, including a free toilet, and a lifetime warranty on the tub and installation! Call us at 1-855-372-3080 or visit www.walkin-tubquote.com/midwest (MCN)

DENTAL INSURANCE from Phy-sicians Mutual Insurance Company.

NOT just a discount plan, REAL cover-age for 350 procedures. Call 1-855-973-9175 for details. www.dental50plus.com/midwest 6118-0219. (MCN)

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting bat-tery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 844-716-2411. (MCN)

INCOME OPPORTUNITIES
NEW AUTHORS WANTED! Page Publishing will help you self-publish your own book. FREE author submis-sion kit! Limited offer! Why wait? Call now: 855-623-8796 (MCN)

Become a published author! Pub-lications sold at all major secular & specialty Christian bookstores. CALL Christian Faith Publishing for your FREE author submission kit. 1-888-981-5761. (MCN)

MISCELLANEOUS
BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY, ONE DAY updates! We special-ize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a free in-home consultation: 855-836-2250 (MCN)

SAVE BIG on HOME INSURANCE! Compare 20 A-rated insurances com-panies. Let us do the shopping & save you time & money. Get a quote within

minutes. Average savings of \$444/ year! Call 855-697-1892. (M-F 8am-8pm Central). (MCN)

Eliminate gutter cleaning forev-er! LeafFilter, the most advanced de-bris-blocking gutter protection. Sched-ule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-577-1268. Promo Code 285. (MCN)

PERSONALS
Meet singles right now! No paid oper tors, just real people like you. Browse greetings, exchange messages and connect live. Try it free. Call now: 855-651-0114. (MCN)

WANT TO BUY
Need some cash! Sell us your unwanted gold, jewelry, watches & diamonds. Call GOLD GEEK 1-866-274-7898 or visit www.GetGoldGeek.com/midwest BBB A Plus Rated. Re-quest your 100 Percent FREE, no risk, no strings attached appraisal kit. Call today! (MCN)

Wanted: Antique Bicycles from 1930’s-50’s. Deluxe or unusual models with ho n tanks, headlig ts, etc. Also buying Schwinn Stingray bikes from 1960’s-70’s. Top prices paid. Will pick up anywhere. 309-645-4623. (MCN)

LIBERTY BANK MINNESOTA SUPPORTS SARTELL'S HEROES

We are living in uncertain times because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Yet we can always be certain of the Heroes among us who provide for our safety! Liberty Bank Minnesota has decided to honor these heroes with two significant contributions to support their efforts.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our annual *Libertyville* event in

June in the interest of public safety. But we still wanted to show appreciation to the Sartell Community for the patronage you have shown us. Funds that would have been used to produce the *Libertyville* event are being used to provide two donations to these "Heroes Among Us":

\$6,000 for the Sartell Police Department Youth Programs



Sartell PD Chief, Jim Hughes and
Liberty Senior VP, Robin Gohman
(Note: Appropriate social distancing!)

\$6,000 for the Sartell Fire Department Relief Association



Sartell Volunteer
Firefighters

At Liberty Bank Minnesota we're proud to be in Sartell and are grateful for all the wonderful customers we have been able to serve. We look forward to more community involvement in the years to come!



198 Pinecone Road, Sartell, MN 56377

