

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Feb. 18, 2022
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Est. 1995

Town Crier

Ice fishing contest set Feb. 19

An ice fishing contest, sponsored by the St. Joseph Rod & Gun Club, will be held from noon to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 at Kraemer Lake, St. Joseph. The first 100 kids, 15 and under, receive free ice fishing gear. Warming house and toilets available. Advanced tickets may be purchased until 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18. For information, call 320-251-2881.

SYHA Raffle: \$40,000 in prizes

Sartell Youth Hockey is now conducting its annual Scheels Gift Card/Gun Raffle with a grand prize of \$1,899.99; 100 prizes in total; 1:20 odds. Drawing is Sunday, May 15. Winners can choose the awarded firearm, with proper credentials, or a gift card for the awarded value. The gift card is redeemable for any merchandise in the St. Cloud store. Purchase tickets at both Blue Line Bar & Grill locations, the Firing Line Indoor Range & Gun Shop or from SYHA members. For more information and a list of prize values, visit sartell-hockeyraffle.com.

Sartell Summer Baseball registration now open

The 2022 Summer Sartell Baseball Registration is open. Please go to SartellBaseball.com to register. Find more information by following us on Facebook.

Sartell Fastpitch Softball now open for registration

Sartell Fastpitch Softball Registration NOW OPEN for players ages 6U-8U through the 2022 season and for 10U-18U until Feb. 20. Please visit www.sartell-fastpitch.com for more information and to register for the 2022 summer season.

No Newsleader printed March 18

The Newsleader office will be closed March 7-11. No Newsleader will be published Friday, March 18 but then we will resume with back-to-back publications March 25 and April 1. The remainder of the year, we will again publish every other Friday starting with the April 1 editions.

INSERTS:
City of St. Stephen newsletter
Minnesota Street Market



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Antique sleds make tracks

Steve Claypatch, of Merrifield, offers to give Laney Schnell, 5, of St. Stephen, a ride on his 1966 Polaris Super Pacer Feb. 5 at the St. Stephen River Runners Vintage Snowmobile Show and Ride.

Former mayor bemoans lack of ice rinks

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Former Sartell Mayor Joe Perske said he thinks it's a crying shame that most of the city's kids have no place in the city to ice skate.

He fondly recalls he so loved to skate and play hockey when he was a boy.

At the Jan. 24 city-council meeting, Perske addressed the council members, lamenting the fact ice rinks are virtually non-existent for pleasure skating, except for the very small one in Val Smith Park.

One day, Perske drove to that park and saw a mother and her two children trying to skate on the small rink that was covered with an inch or two of snow.

St. Cloud, he said, boasts eight hockey rinks and six pleasure-skating rinks.

"We don't see that in Sartell," Perske told the council. "We can do better than that and we should do better than that."

For many years, Sartell did have an outdoor pleasure-skating rink where hockey games could also be played. It was the big outdoor rink,

with fenced border, night lights and warming house just to the south of the Bernick's Arena in Pinecone Regional Park.

"The city even bought a Zamboni for that rink" he noted. "It was a first-class operation," adding it was torn down a few years ago in order to build an all-sports indoor facility on that site.

Perske is a former long-time teacher and soccer coach who served as a Sartell mayor and as a city council member. He is now a Stearns County commissioner.

He recalled in years past there

Bracelets for Sophie

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

It has been seven months since the death of 14-year-old Sophie Wieland of Sartell, but warm memories of her live on in the hearts and minds of so many people who knew and loved her.

One of those people is 15-year-old Lexi Polinder of St. Augusta, who played soccer with Sophie. On Feb. 12 at Second Street Coffeehouse in Sartell, Lexi sold more than 75 homemade bracelets in honor of Sophie, raising \$350.

"The people who bought them were so generous!" Lexi exclaimed.

She donated the \$350 to "Sophie's Squad," an organization to raise awareness about mental-health issues. It was founded

Bracelets • page 4

Equity plans updated, questions raised at listening session

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

At the fourth listening session that's part of the Sartell-St. Stephen school district's Education Equity and Student Experience Committee, Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover updated the audience of about 40 people on what the group has accomplished, described what's next and took questions about the process.

The committee was formed last summer after an equity audit produced by consultant Equity Alliance MN stirred controversy. The district cut ties with the group and instead the district formed the committee to address issues raised almost two years ago and a year before Ridle-

hoover was hired.

"A lot was going on with our students having less than a stellar experience at school," Ridlehoover told the group during the Feb. 16 listening session. "There was something that needed to be addressed."

Ridlehoover appointed the committee made of students, parents, staff and community members. The committee started with 16 topics, those were narrowed to 10 topics with 34 subpoints. The most recent list of priorities, all the committee's meeting notes and findings are available at www.sartell.k12.mn.us/equity.

Ridlehoover said the committee plans to meet on March 7 and if needed there could be another

meeting in late April or early May to set the most urgent priorities and develop actions.

While some people at the listening session thanked the superintendent for the district's efforts, other speakers repeated criticism they have made at previous meetings. Those criticisms focused on how the committee members were chosen and how the district defines equity.

The critics claimed that having half the committee made up of students was inappropriate and that committee selection passed over critics of the equity effort. In addition, the speakers questioned the district's definition of equity and argued any final plans should stay

away from race issues.

In his opening remarks, Ridlehoover posted the district's equity policy that in part states "gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status or disability will not be predictors of student success" and pointed to the district's website that in part says "we are committed to ensuring each child is part of a healthy, safe, engaged and supported environment. We reaffirm our promise to build an inviting culture where every child feels respected and valued."

Ridlehoover encouraged the crowd to stay engaged on the topic and to contact him directly with opinions about priorities and action plans for solutions.

Donate gently used prom dresses for Sartell High School event

by **Mike Knaak**
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell High School students planning this spring’s prom are working to make it more affordable for all students.

Through Monday, Feb. 28, prom organizers will be collecting gently used prom dresses as well as cash donations for tuxedo rental so cost is not a barrier for students who want to attend.

Staff coordinators for the event, Joey Vanek and Kristy

Gosch, surveyed students for what they want prom to look like and one repeating theme was prom has been cost-prohibitive for some students.

Dresses can be dropped off at:

Howie’s in St. Stephen
Sartell Community Center
Sartell High School
Sartell Vibe
Second Street Coffeehouse
St. Stephen City Hall from 5-8 p.m. on Mondays.

To donate cash online, go to <https://sartell.revtrak.net/>



Donations/#/v/prom-donations or click on this QR code.

One of the student planners, senior Haile Eibes, says orga-

nizers want to include more of the community in the prom.

“Sometimes people have dresses they aren’t using,” Eibes said. People sell them, but sometimes they forget about them. Now they can donate the dress. “We want help so everyone can go to the prom.”

Student organizer Allie Engle added “when are you going to wear a prom dress again?”

Prom expenses add up fast. A new dress can cost more than \$400. Tuxedo rental runs \$150 to \$200. A nice dinner for two

at a restaurant costs \$60.

Prom planners also looked at other ways to cut costs.

“A few months ago, we got the ball rolling with a survey on music and a theme,” Engle said. “Would you rather have a ticket with food or cheaper ticket without food.” Students preferred a cheaper ticket without food. As a result, this year’s ticket price will be cheaper than the typical \$50-\$60 person.

“People want cheaper options so we can make this more

Dresses • page 4

People

Two Sartell students were named to the fall honors list at Vermilion Community College in Ely.

They are **Matthew Schnettler**, highest honors, with a minimum grade-point average of 3.75; and **Bailee Mustain**, honors, with a minimum grade-point average of 3.0.

Grace Falconer of Sartell was named to the president’s honor list at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

To be eligible, a student must

have an overall cumulative grade-point average of 3.80 or higher.

Six Sartell students were named to the dean’s list at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

They are **Grace Falconer, Alexander Franke, Kaylee Oehrlein, Tiana Parks, Abigail Peichel** and **Patrick Stalboerger**.

To be eligible for the dean’s list, a student’s grade-point average must be in the top 15 percent of the enrollment.

Magarian Thomas of Sartell graduated with a bachelor’s degree in nursing from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

Two Sartell students were recently named to the dean’s list at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

They are **Chase Heying**, a first-year student and **Rachel Schatz**, a senior.

To achieve this honor, a student must earn a minimum 3.5 grade-point average.

medical sciences, summa cum laude; **Lindsey Clancy**, master’s degree in business administration; **Caleb Clemens**, bachelor’s degree in biomedical sciences, magna cum laude; **Victoria Clemens**, associate’s degree in liberal arts and sciences; **Sydney Davidson**, bachelor’s degree in psychology, cum laude; **Kyle Harthan**, bachelor’s degree in accounting and management, magna cum laude; **Kristopher Hute**, master’s degree in business administration; **Abiodun Jegede**, master’s degree in gerontology; **Adam Lemke**, bachelor’s degree in manufacturing engineering technology; **Kayleen Martins**, bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering, summa cum laude; **Dylan Noehring**, certificate, professional selling specialization; **Matthew Pierson**, master’s degree in business administration; **Rachana Pokhrel**, bachelor’s degree in communication studies, cum laude; **Alexis Streit**, bachelor’s degree in early childhood education, magna cum

laude; **Joshua Westphal**, master’s degree in applied behavior analysis; and **Morgan Zakrajshek**, bachelor’s degree in criminal justice studies, cum laude.

Morgan Cromwell of Sartell was recently named to the dean’s list at Aurora (Illinois) University.

The dean’s list recognizes full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum 3.6 grade-point average.

Autumn Kreutzer of Sartell graduated with a degree in business administration/human resources from Park University, Parkville, Missouri.

Two Sartell students were named to the dean’s list at Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington.

They are **Thomas Connolly** and **Grayson Sanderson**.

Students must earn a minimum 3.85 grade-point average to be recognized for this honor.

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Callie Lamae Grosz of Sartell recently graduated with a bachelor’s degree in pharmaceutical sciences from North Dakota State University, Fargo.

Seventeen Sartell students recently graduated from St. Cloud State University.

They and their majors are as follows: **Jessica Andrews**, bachelor’s degree in management, magna cum laude; **Tara Berger**, bachelor’s degree in bio-

Lions seek owner(s) of ornaments

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleaders.com

The LeSauk (Township) Lions Club is seeking the owners of Christmas-tree ornaments that were left on discarded trees after the close of the holiday season..

The ornaments have a personal touch to them, which is why the Lions would like to find their owners. One of the ornaments is a white angel with the words “Bundle of Joy” written on it; another a snow globe with Santa indie and the name “Madison” on the base; the third is an aqua-colored door

front that says “New Home.”

LeSauk Lions Club president Jessica Pelzer explained how the Lions discovered the ornaments:

Each year, the 40-member Lions Club offers a tree-pickup service. Members go to homes and take the Christmas tree to the Sartell compost site for a fee of \$7 plus a food-shelf item. Each year, all money raised by the Lions is given to a local family in which a child is suffering a medical condition or other emergency.

The owner(s) of the ornaments can contact Jessica Pel-

Ornaments • page 7

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www.thenewsleaders.com

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Newsleader staff members have the responsibility to report news fairly and accurately and are accountable to the public. Readers who feel we’ve fallen short of these standards are urged to call the *Newsleader* office at 320-363-7741. If matters cannot be resolved locally, readers are encouraged to take complaints to the Minnesota News Council, an independent agency designed to improve relationships between the public and the media and resolve conflicts. The council office may be reached at 612-341-9357.

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Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304., e-mail it to news@thenewsleaders.com. Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.

Saturday, Feb. 19
Community meal, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., drive-by and pick-up style, First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S, Sartell.

Ice fishing contest, noon-2:30 p.m., Kraemer Lake. St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club hosts its 28th annual ice fishing contest. Advanced adult tickets available until 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18; nominal fee for kids 15 & under, advanced and at the lake. More than \$4,000 in prizes! Lunch and refreshments available for purchase. 320-251-2881.

Monday, Feb. 21
Sartell-St. Stephen school board, 6:30 p.m., District Service Center, 212 Third Ave. N. Sartell.

Online Safety and Healthy Relationships Presentation, 7 p.m., Sartell High School Performing Arts Center (theater), 3101 Pinecone Road N., Sartell. Sartell Police Department and school district are teaming up to present strategies to help keep students and the community safe. Presenters will be Special Agent Nick Riba from Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and Kate Lepage from Minnesota Safe Harbor. For more information, contact School Resource Officer Rob Lyon at rob.lyon@sartellmn.com.

Wednesday, Feb. 23
Walk With Ease, 10-11 a.m., Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. This workshop meets in-person Wednesdays through March 2. 320-650-3082 or email whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us.

Thursday, Feb. 24
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Topic: Gary Bechtold, three-time Jeopardy winner, shares his experience on the popular game show.

Friday, Feb. 25
Justin Plroof and The Throwbacks, 7:30 p.m., Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 W. St. Germain, St. Cloud. The Throwbacks return to the Paramount to pay homage to America’s preeminent Rock n’ Roll band – Creedence Clearwater Revival! paramountarts.org.

Sunday, Feb. 27
Tails on Trails: Calling all dog owners & lovers! 1-4 p.m., Millstream Park, 725 CR 75 W., St. Joseph. Walk the trails while playing Clue Covid edition, ride on a dog sled, watch Solid Results trainers work with their dogs, talk with Sgt. Hoffman about police K-9 units, visits Rus-cues about adopting a dog or cat, photos and more!

Monday, Feb. 28
Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

Tuesday, March 1
Church Basement Ladies: 20th Anniversary!, 1:30 and 7 p.m., Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 W. St. Germain, St. Cloud. A celebration of the church basement kitchen and the women who work

there, features four distinct characters and their relationships as they organize the food and the problems of a rural Minnesota church. paramountarts.org.

St. Stephen City Council, 6:30 p.m., St. Stephen City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave. SE. This month’s meeting will meet on Tuesday instead of Wednesday.

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

Thursday, March 3
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Topic: Jean Euteneuer: Can Do Canines.

Friday, March 4
Goitse: Contagiously energetic Irish music! 7:30 p.m., Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 W. St. Germain, St. Cloud. The popular and multi-award-winning quintet Goitse was forged in the white-hot creative crucible of Limerick’s Irish World Academy. paramountarts.org.

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“I congratulate James on behalf of LPL,” said Angela Xavier, LPL executive vice president, Independent Advisor Services. “We are inspired by his dedication to clients and strong commitment to helping them work toward their financial goals. It is an honor to support James with robust resources, integrated capabilities and differentiated service experiences designed to help him run a thriving practice. We wish James and his entire team continued success as they create meaningful impact in the lives of their clients in the years ahead.”

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Blotter

If you have a tip concerning a crime, call the Sartell Police Department at 320-251-8186 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 320-255-1301, or access its tip site at tricountycrimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.

Jan. 28
10:58 p.m. Unknown. Amber Avenue S. Benton County Dispatch received a call about someone trying to break into an apartment, but the call was lost. They transferred the information over to Stearns County dispatch. When Stearns County tried calling the number back, they received no answer. An officer responded to the address and made contact with the female resident who stated she heard someone pounding on her door and turning the doorknob. She looked out the peep hole and didn’t see anyone. Another officer arrived and walked the hallways for anything suspicious. The neighbor told officers they heard the female yelling but also didn’t see anyone in the hallway. The resident was told to call back if anyone came back.

Jan. 29
1:06 p.m. Theft. Sandstone Loop S. An officer was requested for a theft of a package. The officer spoke to the homeowner who stated there was a suspicious black car in their driveway when their son came home. Shortly after the owner got a notification that an Amazon package had been delivered, and had their son check for the package, but it was gone. The son did take pictures of the vehicle as it drove away because it seemed odd. Dispatch ran the plate but it did not come back on file. The officer was unable to locate the vehicle. The homeowner did call back and stated when the car left their driveway the trunk was open, and

their son thought he had seen a bunch of packages inside.

Jan. 30
6:02 p.m. Driving complaint. CR 1. Black Jeep driving erratic and speeding. An officer responded to the area and located two vehicles matching the description but appeared to be driving appropriately. The officer was unable to confirm if either vehicle was the suspect vehicle due to the complainant was no longer following.

Jan. 31
7:45 a.m. Suspicious activity. Highway 15. A person called dispatch stating they were following a service van that exited on Highway 15 to CR 1. The caller stated it sounded like someone was inside the van pounding on the back doors. The officer was able to locate a phone number for the company the service truck was from. The officer made contact with the driver of the van who stated he was at a worksite near Walmart. The officer advised him of the complaint and the male started laughing and said that was not true. He said he has a lot of things in the van and driving it makes them rattle around, and possibly up against the doors. The male welcomed the officer to come look inside the van, but the officer declined.

Feb. 1

10:17 a.m. Hazard. Bridge of Hope. An officer was dispatched to the Bridge of Hope for a vehicle that was parked in the left lane of traffic which nearly caused a crash. The caller stated the person appeared to be looking at a

Blotter • page 7

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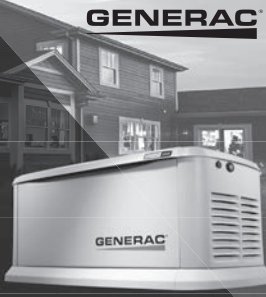
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Bracelets

from front page

ed shortly after Sophie’s death by Terry Hughes, a coach for the Twin Cities-based “Skate to Excellence” program, of which Sophie was a member.

Last year, on July 12, Sophie took her own life, a terrible loss that devastated all who knew her. Even her parents did not

know she had been struggling with mental-health issues. Sophie, a student at Sartell Middle School, was always upbeat, outgoing and kind, always reaching out to help others.

“I had trouble making friends,” Lexi said. “It’s a kind of social anxiety I have, and when playing soccer Sophie always helped me feel comfortable to reach out to others and to make friends. Sophie was one of my closest friends.”

Lexi, a student at Kimball High School, is the daughter of Samantha and Jason Polinder. She enjoys soccer, art and “lots of reading.”

The daughter of Henry and Aimee Wieland, Sophie achieved perfect grades. She loved to play hockey, soccer and competed in cross-country. She played the violin, and she also excelled in extracurricular pursuits, including student council, Academic Triathlon, Knowledge Bowl and the school district’s Equity Club. Her goal was to study at the Massachusetts Institute of Tech-

nology and become an aerospace engineer.

At the time of her death, Sophie left a goodbye letter in which she wrote she had been struggling with inner turmoil for three years.

Her mother, Aimee, said this: “Nobody had a clue and nobody had any idea (about Sophie’s inner struggles). . . She was such a happy, kind, generous soul. . . If she just knew a fraction of the love that people had for her . . . I just wish she knew that.”

Mental-health professionals have said the suicide rate

has increased in recent years, especially among adolescent girls. Experts believe pressures during the Covid pandemic may contribute to the stresses children feel: being isolated, turning to social media messages about “perfection” in looks and behavior, and trying to balance schoolwork, sports participation and so many other responsibilities and duties.”

To learn more about “Sophie’s Squad” and how to contribute to its efforts for mental health and suicide prevention, visit its website at <https://sophiessquad.org>.

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photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Addison Kelsey, 7, of Sartell, (right) wears a Sophie’s Squad T-shirt as she recommends a Smore’s Truffle coffee drink to Lexi Polinder, 15, of St. Augusta. The entire Second Street Coffeehouse team wore Sophie’s Squad T-shirts Feb. 12 for suicide awareness and prevention.



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Dresses

from page 2

affordable,” Engle said. The Covid pandemic disrupted prom plans the past two years. The 2020 event was canceled and in 2021, a smaller, seniors-only event took place at the high school.

The Sartell Community Center will be the site for this year’s prom starting with the Grand March at 4 p.m. Saturday, May 21. The event will take advantage of the Community Center’s location with the Grand March on the trail between the center and the lake.

“We’ve been thinking of ways to make it more of a community thing,” Eibes said. “Parents can bring lawn chairs and watch.”

After a break for dinner, students return at 8 p.m. for music. Plans call for a DJ inside and a live band for what Gosch calls “a more relaxed atmosphere outside.” The prom theme is Enchanted Forest.

Gosch and Vanek will work with counselors in the coming weeks to identify students who would benefit from the donations and to set up times to look at the dresses. If there are more cash donations than needed for tux rentals, the money will be used for gift cards at local restaurants.



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8. Give away hot cocoa in your neighborhood
9. Donate homemade "get well soon" cards to local hospitals
10. Create a diaper-exchange care package and leave it in a public bathroom
11. Next time there's a sale on canned goods, buy some extra and donate it to your local food bank

Be part of the #11forJacob movement
Spread kindness to create a safer community

A proven history of helping kids & families...

The Jacob Wetterling Resource Center was founded to educate and assist families and communities to address and prevent the exploitation of children. They continue to work to end all forms of child maltreatment through education, training and prevention while advocating for and serving children, adult survivors and communities.


For more information, visit: zeroabuseproject.org

We want to see your acts of kindness! Email us photos of you and your community doing acts of kindness at news@thenewsleaders.com. Be sure to list the first and last names of everyone in the photo(s), as well as which town you reside in and a caption for your act of kindness. Include your telephone number and email address in case we have questions about the photos. Entries will be shared on our social media pages, website and in upcoming print editions.

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Opinion

Our View

Let's honor Jacob through acts of kindness

Yesterday was national Act of Kindness Day. It seems only fitting this day also lands on the same day as Jacob Wetterling's birthday. In honor of both these events the Newsleaders staff invites you to celebrate those acts of kindness not just for one day, but in the coming weeks as well.

It will be 33 years in October since Jacob was abducted and that loss is still felt by many. Those of us who live and have grown up in the area remember it like it was yesterday. Many things changed after that in our communities. Abduction awareness became more prominent, parents became afraid to let their children wait alone by bus stops, little by little certain things we never used to even bat an eye at became a source of anxiety. And the heartbreak that we all feel for the Wetterling family still stands today.

That's why we think it's so important to start taking notice of the small stuff and honor the memory of Jacob by doing some acts of kindness in your neighborhoods. There are many things we can do to show appreciation for others or help out a stranger in need. Below are some ideas that might help you get started.

Take notice of those passing you by. Do you like their hair, shirt or shoes? Tell them. People underestimate the power of a random compliment. Think about the last time someone did this for you and how it made you feel. There is power behind those simple little gestures, and it could mean more than you know to someone.

Have you ever been in a public restroom or a restaurant and noticed a little note with an encouraging message on it? Those have most likely come from past national Act of Kindness days. Leaving an inspiring note for some to find can lift the spirits of someone who might be having a tough time, or just really needs a sign they're doing OK. You could be that sign for them.

How about babysitting for free for that single mom or the parents who haven't had a night out since their child was born? Or baking cookies for your local law enforcement office or fire station? You could walk a neighbor's dog or shovel their driveway. There are so many little things we can do to show kindness that mean so much; it's just about taking the time to notice them.

And remember, kindness is contagious, so feel free to spread it all over your neighborhood. That's the kind of pandemic we need more of.

Letters policy

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or mailed to 1622 11th Ave. S.E., St. Cloud, MN 56304. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space or to not publish.

Please, keep banning those books

I don't mean to sigh in exasperation or roll my eyes in annoyance but once again, 2022 is starting out with a list of banned books, most notably, "Maus" by Art Spiegelman which is a book about the holocaust. By all means, tell our students they cannot read it.

Maybe it's not such a humorous thing and I shouldn't find enjoyment in it, but it really is common knowledge that once you take something away, the desire for it grows to an almost obsession. So, while the "powers that be" think they are censoring the public from literature they find "unfit" for our children or the public in general, what they are really doing is encouraging them to go out and read it on their own. To that, I say thank you!

Famous author Stephen King is no rookie to books being banned having had at least four of his own novels on that list in the past. It's because of him I have this attitude toward banned books. King has put it in a different perspective for me and I think that's why my attitude about book banning has turned from angry to amused.

At one point when asked his opinion on the matter King said "When books are run out of school classrooms and libraries, I'm never much disturbed...What I tell kids is, don't get mad, get even. Don't spend time waving signs or carrying petitions around the neighborhood. Instead, run, don't walk, to the nearest non-school library or the local bookstore

Leanne Loy
Editor



and get whatever it was that they banned. Read whatever they're trying to keep out of your eyes and your brain, because that's exactly what you need to know."

It is this very sentiment that sparked an engaging conversation with my 15-year-old about what "they don't want him to see." I agree with King, if someone is trying to hide it from you, it's most likely something you need to know. My son is not an avid reader, unlike his mother, but as a teen, he also doesn't like to be told that there is literature out there that "they" don't want him to see. We discussed the idea of being able to think for yourself and make your own decisions about what to read and stop relying on others to choose what they feel is appropriate for you.

Now I know King writes mostly fiction and his books were banned for reasons such as violence and sexual themes, and those themes can be off putting to some, but all banning does is make the masses want to read it even more; so really, the jokes on them. Have we learned nothing from our past? You can only repress people for so long until they stand up and

fight back for what they want. Like that petulant child, the more you take it away, the more they want it.

Besides, literature is an expression of art and often times is therapeutic for both writer and reader. When we ban books, we take away free speech, plain and simple. And in this country, that will only be tolerated for so long.

I remember reading Cujo when I was around my sons age. My oldest brother was a King fan and I guess he figured I would enjoy it because I'm an animal lover. I was hesitant to read anything by King because I knew of his stories and how they easily caused terror. But then, my mother warned me not to read it. In fact, she flat out told me that I shouldn't read it because it would give me nightmares. That was all she had to say, don't do it. So, of course, I did it.

Was she right, did I have nightmares? You bet I did, it's Cujo! But something else happened too. That was the first time I realized I could become so engrossed by a book that the rest of the world faded away and I felt like I was in the story. Truth be told, that has a lot to do with King's talent as a writer, but it also started a spark in me. Books became a passion of mine and it all started with one that was banned.

So go ahead, keep banning those books. As history has shown us, it's a darn good way to get our kids to read.

Greatest 20th Century novel turns 100

Now 100 years old, James Joyce's novel "Ulysses" is widely considered by literary scholars the greatest novel of the 20th Century.

The masterpiece was first published in Paris on Feb. 2, 1922. It was banned in the United States until a landmark 1933 district-court decision that ruled the novel was not "obscene" but rather a work of great literary merit.

In 1965 in my high-school library, I tried to check out "Ulysses." I say "tried" because the prim and proper librarian at first wouldn't give it to me. I learned it had been taken off the shelves and hustled off to hide in shame in a back room.

"Why do you want to read THAT book?" she asked me.

"Because I've heard it's a great novel."

"Well, I'll have you know it's smutty," she sputtered.

"I don't care; I want to read it so hand it over."

Reluctantly she did.

Back home, I opened it and began to read it, or I should say TRIED to read it. I couldn't make heads or tails of it and tossed it across the room.

"How could such gibberish be hailed as great?" I scoffed.

Some months later, in a book store, I happened upon a paperback entitled "Re-Joyce" by famed British writer Anthony Burgess. It was a "guide" on how to read "Ulysses." I bought it.

Through the next weeks, with Burgess as guide, "Ulysses" all of a sudden made sense. I was stunned by Joyce's ingenious

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



kaleidoscopic way of evoking all the characters and the bits and pieces of one day and night in Dublin, Ireland - June 16, 1904.

The book details the perambulations in Dublin of Leopold Bloom, a newspaper ad salesman; his wife Molly, a singer; and Stephen Dedalus, a restless, questing young intellectual - plus a large cast of earthy, colorful characters as their paths cross in the city streets and in buildings that day: several pubs, a post office, a library, a brothel, Bloom's home, a newspaper office, a maternity hospital, a cabman's shelter.

Much of the book is written in "stream of consciousness," a technique that mimics the characters' shards of thoughts, as if they are thinking out loud.

At one point, Stephen thinks this: "History is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake."

Other storytelling methods include a surrealistic nightmare section written as a play with stage directions and characters acting, speaking; a parody of English language styles evolving through history that coincides with a baby being born; newspaper headlines; a question-answer section that mimics the Catholic catechism; a

50-page, unpunctuated meandering river of words as Molly, drowning in bed, ruminates upon her past. The book is, in a way, a gigantic, sprawling puzzle that readers must "solve." No wonder few read it.

"Ulysses" is so entitled because its storyline parallels the ancient Greek epic poem "The Odyssey" by Homer, whose hero Odysseus (Ulysses in Latin) wanders for years after the Trojan War, trying to get back home to his wife, Penelope. In Joyce's book, Bloom is a mock-heroic version of Ulysses; wife Molly echoes Penelope.

Yes, "Ulysses" is a complex book crammed with puns, allusions, parodies, homages, swarms of details, philosophical wonderings and word acrobatics. It's as if Joyce, like a grand magician, had conjured into being a bustling universe of life, death, joy, sorrow and comedy - all in one Dublin day.

I've read Ulysses six or seven times. Each re-reading brought new meanings, new treasures.

Born and raised in Ireland, Joyce spent most of his life in a kind of self-imposed exile, mostly in Paris.

Here's the great lyrical ending, as Molly lies remembering of her long-ago awakening love for Leopold Bloom:

"... and then he asked me would I say yes my mountain flower and first I put my arms around him yes and drew him down to me so he could feel my breasts yes all perfume yes and his heart was going like mad and yes I said yes I will Yes."

Have an opinion? Share it: news@thenewsleaders.com

Public works director shares snow-removal insights

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleaders.com

So far this season, Sartell Public Works Director John Kothenbeutel figures he’s purchased \$75,000 less for road salt than last year.

That’s because of an innovative program adopted last year in Sartell called “Pre-Treating.” By mixing road salt with water (a 23-percent solution of salt to water), the public-works employees can spray the solution onto streets, which prevents snow from sticking to the asphalt. Then plows can more easily and effectively remove the snow that does accumulate later.

Kothenbeutel said the pre-treating process uses about one-fourth less salt than in years where plain salt (without water) was applied to roadways.

This year, the Pre-Treating program earned for Sartell a City of

Excellence Award from the League of Minnesota Cites, which praised Kothenbeutel and the public-works department for their pre-treat work.

In an interview with the Newsleader, Kothenbeutel explained how it works:

The salt-and-water solution is mixed in two giant tanks in a shop of the public-works department. One tank holds 2,500 gallons, the other 1,500 gallons. Batches of the solution is put in the tanks of truck sprayers, ready to hit the roads.

Kothenbeutel, not surprisingly, keeps his ears and eyes constantly attuned to weather forecasts. When temperatures drop to the low 10s, usually starting in November, workers will do the pre-treatment, hopefully shortly before a heavy snow arrives. It’s done, usually about once a week, in fall and sometimes again in early spring.

The pre-treatment is done mainly

just on heavily travelled main roads, bridges and hilly roads in Sartell, he noted. Sometimes, the workers have time and opportunity to do also busy roads in neighborhoods.

Plowing, hydrants

Kothenbeutel, at the Dec. 12 city-council meeting, said he has received calls about why streets were not plowed after a recent snowfall. It’s because the streets are generally not plowed until there is an accumulation of three inches of snow or more, he told the council.


During the interview with the Newsleader, Kothenbeutel said it would be ideal if all residents would shovel snow away from nearby fire hydrants so that firefighters have a quick and easy access to them in emergencies. Sartell does have an “Adopt a Hydrant” program, but it’s informal and volunteer-dependent. For more on the program, see the city’s website.

Ornaments

from page 2

zer at 320-266-5302 or email her at japelzer@live.com.

The LeSauk Lions Club mem-



contributed photo

The LeSauk Lions Club is trying to locate the owners of these lost Christmas ornaments.

Letter to the editor Reader takes issue with Feb. 4 DINO column

Judy Mosford, Sartell

In response to Dennis Dalman's opinion article in the Feb. 4 Newsleaders, when I hear the word "Dino," I think of "Dino the Dinosaur," and there certainly are many in the Democrat administration including Nancy Pelosi; Joe Biden; Chuck Schumer and several others. I am not saying there isn't the same number in the Republican ranks, but let's move on.

The filibuster has been used by both parties over the years and for the Democrats to do away with it now could come back to haunt them in the future. They don't care about that right now as they want to do whatever it takes to stay in power forever.

As for the Right to Vote Law, THERE IS NO VOTER SUPPRESSION! That's the Big Lie! There is no place in the U.S. where voters are prevented from voting. Voting is a privilege for U.S. citizens. Serious voters should be willing to make an effort to

participate in the voting process even if the polling place is not outside their front door and no one is ringing their doorbell to ask if they want to vote and for whom.

The food and water bill states that one cannot give or sell food and beverages to those waiting in line to vote as this act could be encouragement to favor one candidate over another. A voter can bring their own water. Poll workers and election managers are allowed to provide self-serve bottles of water at the polling stations.

Gerrymandering? Really, Dennis? This scheme, as you call it, is also used by both parties. Don't suggest that the Democratic party is above using this.

In conclusion, I commend Senators Manchin and Sinema for voting for what they believe is right and representing their constituents and not caving to the battering of Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi!

Blotter

from page 3

map. The officer arrived and checked the area, but the vehicle had moved on.

Feb. 2

4:25 p.m. Hazard. Sixth Street NE. An officer was dispatched to a report of lines down on a roadway. The caller explained a sanitation truck had hooked a cable line from above, and now it was dangling across the street. The officer responded and found the line was hanging over the roadway, and no vehicles would be able to pass. It was found it was a Spectrum internet cable. The officer placed cones across the roadway and dispatch contacted Spectrum to respond. The officer did not see any damage to the line, poles or nearby homes.

Feb. 3

3:45 p.m. Suspicious activity. CR 120. The complainant called dispatch

requesting an officer for a suspicious male within the store. The complainant stated the male had hidden two TVs in the men's clothing area. The caller thought the male was planning to steal them. As the officer was responding, the complainant called back and informed dispatch the male had left the store without any merchandise and the officer was no longer needed.

Feb. 4

5:53 a.m. Vehicle in ditch. First Street N. An officer was dispatched to a vehicle in the ditch near an intersection. A passerby reported a black Pontiac slid down a hill and struck the stop sign. The officer checked the area and was unable to locate the vehicle or any damage to street signs.

Feb. 5

4:56 p.m. Warrant. St. Cloud. An officer was doing follow up on several theft cases when contact was made with the individual at a home. The officer ran the male's name, and it was found there was an active Ramsey County warrant for felony theft.

Ramsey County confirmed they wanted to place a hold on the male. The male was taken into custody without incident.

Feb. 7

8:42 p.m. Theft from vehicle. Roberts Road. An officer was called to assist with a theft from vehicle. The officer was informed that a male's handgun was stolen from his vehicle. The officer spoke to the complainant who stated he had left the handgun under the seat of the vehicle. The gun was loaded and not in a holster. The vehicle doors were locked but the rear panel doors on the vehicle do not lock. The male did search the area after to confirm the gun hadn't fallen out. The officer is waiting for the serial number to be presented so proper paperwork can be completed, and the handgun can then be entered into dispatch as stolen. The officer made contact with the apartment manager to retain video of the incident. The officer is still working on this case.

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Exploring High-Yield Accounts

Wouldn't it be great if you could keep your money safe, still have access when you need it and make more in interest?

A high-yield checking account or money-market account can help you accomplish all three objectives. You'll have to meet specific requirements in order to earn interest rates above the national average. Here's a look at what else is typically required, and an important warning for those who are new to these accounts.

REQUIRED DIRECT DEPOSITS

You'll typically be asked to establish and maintain a monthly direct deposit into the account. If you don't set up a direct deposit within a specified time after opening the account, the bank might subject you to a monthly maintenance fee. You might also forfeit the higher interest rate that brought you to these high-yield accounts in the first place.

MINIMUM TRANSACTIONS

Banks can require that high-yield-checking account holders make a specific number of debit card transactions on a monthly basis, with a minimum number that must be met. The number of transactions, of course, vary depending on the bank, but they can be unnaturally inflated. If you

don't make 10 or more transactions a month, this kind of account may not be right for you. Examine your own spending patterns before signing up for a high-yield account, making sure you can meet whatever debit-card transactions might be required.

KEEPING A CERTAIN BALANCE

High-yield checking accounts

and money-market accounts are usually paired with a minimum balance requirement. Some banks also limit the amount of money that earns the top interest rate. So, you might earn a rate above the national average on the first \$25,000, but then a far lower interest rate on balances that exceed \$25,000. Keep in mind, too, the requirement for minimum balances on high-

yield accounts often far exceeds that of more traditional accounts.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR

These accounts are obviously attractive because of their high yields, offering people a chance to grow their money while keeping it safe from wider market fluctuations. But they promise interest rates above

the national average with strings attached. If you fail to meet all of the bank's monthly requirements, they might pay far less interest than you were expecting – or nothing at all. Make sure you have reviewed all of the requirements outlined here, and feel confident you can meet them, before signing on the dotted line for a high-yield checking account or money-market account.

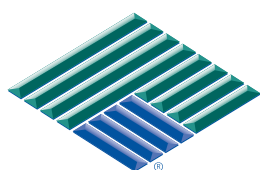


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