

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, June 10, 2022
Volume 27, Issue 12
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Paper mill remembrance scheduled June 11

A Verso Paper Corp. Mill Remembrance, sponsored by the Sartell Historical Society and Sartell Senior Connection, will be held from 1-4 p.m. Saturday, June 11 right after the Summer-Fest parade. Activities include the following: Riverside Jazz performance at 1 p.m., a paper mill video presentation, an artifact display from Sartell and Benton County historical society collections, a panel of former paper mill employees, a model train display, a local authors book sale and refreshments. May 28, 2022 marked the 10th anniversary of the paper mill explosion and fire.

Provide supportive care

Are you passionate about helping people? Consider becoming a Direct Care Support Volunteer for Opportunity Matters! DCS volunteers receive extensive training to become essential players of the OMI team. After training, you will have the opportunity to provide hands on assistance to the individuals they serve by helping them with their program goals, assisting with tasks of daily living, or taking them out into the community for an afternoon of fun. Direct Care Support volunteers help out at least two hours, three times monthly and are asked to make a three-month commitment. Volunteer during the day, evening or weekend or as your schedule allows. Opportunity Matters is a non-profit organization that provides residential care, short-term crisis services, respite care, adult day and supportive living services to people with developmental disabilities. Contact Rhonda, Opportunity Matters, at 320-240-1900 or rhondas@opportunitymatters.org.

Help at the food shelf

Catholic Charities Emergency Services Food Shelf needs volunteers to help as food shelf distribution aides. Volunteers will assist clients in selecting their food choices using an independent choice food shelf model and keep the shopping area neat and orderly. Volunteer hours are usually 12 to 16 hours per month Mondays from 12:45-4:15 p.m., Wednesdays from 2:45-7:15 p.m. or from 2:45-5:15 p.m. and Fridays from 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Visit www.ccst-cloud.org/volunteer to learn more about their program and complete an application.



photo by Mike Knaak

Grad speakers Carter and Hannah
Carter Bright shared a laugh as he introduced one of the senior speakers, Hannah Spoden.

Feeding-children program needs a boost

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

About five years ago, Sartell students had begun telling their parents about seeing some classmates taking food from garbage cans in lunchroom cafeterias.

That is because some students were scrounging food they would be able to eat on hungry weekends.

That sad fact is what motivated many concerned parents to start a local non-profit organization called Feeding Area Children Together.

At first, as a pilot program, the plan was to feed 50 students with healthy, ready-to-eat meals for the weekends when children weren't in school to receive meals. The nutritious meals were packed in paper bags, then given to the children who needed them.

Children who face food insecurity receive subsidized breakfasts and lunches at schools when schools are in session, but some of those same children go hungry during weekends.

Those who organized FACT soon learned when students ar-

Boost • page 9

Two seats open in city council

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Four Sartell residents have filed for two open seats on the Sartell City Council, the outcome of which will be decided in the general election, Nov. 8.

Mayor Ryan Fitzthum filed for re-election and will be running unopposed.

Council members who filed are incumbent Tim Elness, as well as Bradley Gunderson, Stacy Lundeen and Jed Meyer. Elness has served a first term of four years on the council.

The seats that are open are Elness's seat and the seat now occupied by Jeff Kolb, who did not file for re-election.

The other members of the current council are Alex Lewandowski and Jill Smith, both elected in 2020 to four-year terms.

More information about the candidates will be published by the Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader as the election approaches.



photo by Mike Knaak

Grad happy line
Sartell High School senior Braeden Faust flashes a smile as he and other students march in for their graduation ceremony on June 4. More than 300 students received diplomas. (See more photos on page 8)

Realife Cooperative at Mueller Gardens

55+ Senior Living Community

Find your new home here!

Independent Living • Ownership w/ Tax Benefits

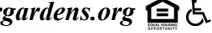
Secure Community • Maintenance Free

Enjoy Friendship and Social Activities

320-258-3094

6670 Northwood Lane, St. Cloud

realifecoopmuellergardens.org



BEE LINE

Bee Line Service Center, Inc.

Auto, Truck, RV & Trailer Repair

320-363-1433

8805 Ridgewood Court, St. Joseph

beelineservice.com

Warehouse workers & CDL Drivers

ABC Supply in St. Cloud is looking for motivated warehouse workers and CDL drivers (Class A & B)

Experience with a boom, moftet and forklift is helpful but we will train the right person.

We offer:

- Competitive pay • Medical, dental & vision insurance
- 401K • Bonus opportunities

Come work for a Gallup Great Workplace award winner!



Email resumes to
MGR353@abcsupply.com
640 54th Ave. N. Ste A, St. Cloud

Get Paid To Sleep!

Direct Support Staff at OMI, Overnight Sleep positions available at minimum wage for sleep hours, \$15/hr when providing awake care



Entry Level:
We Train!

Apply on our website:
www.opportunitymatters.org

EEO/AA Employer

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, color, creed, disability, familial status, marital status, national origin, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or membership or activity in a local human rights commission.

Polka maestro Neuman to perform at ‘Swing into Summer’

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A free concert series dubbed “Swing into Summer!” will take place every Tuesday (except July 5) through July 26 from 5:30-7 p.m. on the grounds of the Sartell Community Center.

The series began June 7 with a performance by the Riverside Jazz Band. The next concert, June 14, will feature polka prodigy Nathan Neuman (for more on Neuman see story below).

Before each concert, concert-goers – if they so choose – can play lawn games, including a round of mini golf. The Sartell Lions Club will offer hot dogs, chips and beverages before and during each concert.

Next in the “Swing into Summer!” line-up, on June 14, is “Nathan Neuman’s Old Time One Man Band.”

Others on the summer schedule include the following:

June 28: Honey Tree.

July 5: No concert or mini golf.

July 26: An encore performance by the Riverside Jazz Band.

June 21, July 12 and July 19 are being billed as “Surprise!” concerts and will be announced later.

Nathan Neuman

Often dubbed a “One Man Band,” Nathan Neuman, 27, of Waite Park, is regarded widely as a self-taught prodigy and polka maestro who can play multiple instruments that include concertina, accordion, trumpet, piano, guitar, drums and an instrument called a bandura.

The latter is Ukraine’s national instrument that sounds like a combination of zither, harp and piano.

Raised in Avon, Neuman attended Albany High School



contributed photos

Nathan Neuman, a musical prodigy, holds one of his many instruments – a concertina that was passed down to him by his relatives when he was just 15 years old. Now 27, Neuman is also an award-winning songwriter.

where he learned to play the trumpet. When he was 15, one day he was presented with a family “heirloom” – a concertina that had been passed on from generation to generation, which his great-uncle had loved to play.

Neuman instantly took to the instrument and soon found himself playing and singing polkas and waltzes with boundless joy and gusto. Two years later, at age 17, 10 years ago, he formed a polka band with school friends.

With astonishing speed, he learned to play one instrument after another, using instruction books and internet teaching programs. Like a human sponge, he soaked up musical styles of polkas and waltzes from countries that include Germany, Poland, Croatia, Czechoslovakia and Ukraine.

Having made Polish fans and friends online, he began learning Polish from them.

Neuman lives in Waite Park and is a member of St. Joseph Parish in that city. He gives

music lessons and performs about 40 gigs each year at church bazaars, receptions, outdoor concerts and other events. He sometimes performs as a solo artist, other times with bandmates.

Neuman is also a recording engineer who records his own CDs, many of which contain songs written by him.

One of those songs, called “Pass It On,” won first place in 2020 from the International Polka Association. What inspired the song is the concertina that was passed on to him as a family heirloom and literally changed the course of his life.

In “Pass It On,” Neuman sings and plays an exhilarating, energetic ode to intergenerational connections, the passing on of good things from one family to another, keeping connections alive. In each verse of the masterpiece, Neumann plays a different instrument in breathless, jaunty polka rhythms that flow fast like a river of sounds.



Nathan Neuman practices his accordion in a studio.

AIR MAX
REFRIGERATION, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

\$25 off

AC TUNE UPS

OFFER ENDS JUNE 30, 2022

320-252-5602
airmaxstcloud.com



\$50
total savings

WITH STEARNS ELECTRIC

\$25 REBATE

OFFER ENDS JUNE 30, 2022

800-962-0655
stearnselectric.org

Letter to the editor

Schools should not become armed fortresses

by Nicole Borg
Sartell

The events that unfolded at the Uvalde, Texas elementary school May 24 were horrifying. But they were not new. We know all too well the images of children fleeing, of officers with guns drawn entering shooting zones.

We have seen the images of shooters on surveillance cameras – the black duffle bag, the gun made for combat. But if we can’t recognize the faces of the children as our children, if we can’t see the loss of each of those kids as our own personal loss, if we can’t feel at least an echo of loss in our own hearts, if we can’t see those losses as personal, we will never act to stop them.

We have done little to stop this violent epidemic that threatens all of us. As a parent and teacher, I believe we must act at federal and local levels to prevent the next mass shooting.

Uvalde was the 27th school shooting to take place in the United States this year. Gun violence is now the number one cause of death for children and teens.

It is not a mark of our “freedom” that I should kiss my fourth-grader and freshman goodbye each morning, wondering if they will return from school to me unharmed. Or if I, a high-school teacher, should return to them.

How do we stop mass shootings? We could pretend there is nothing we can do. We watch the news and feel a wave of dread at yet another shooting. Our feelings of helplessness and hopelessness will not solve the problem.

Where to start? I don’t believe in “taking away” guns, but I do believe in some limitations. Owning semi-automatic rifles like

the DDM4 Rifle used in Uvalde (an AR-15 style weapon) has no purpose for hunting or home defense. And high-capacity magazines increase the killing power against men, women and children. If I have to take a bullet for my students, then make the shooter have to reload so I or a fellow teacher can have a chance of overcoming him.

Some claim laws won’t help because shooters would still get guns illegally, but if we fail to enact a law because “someone would break it,” then it follows we should not have any laws because they can be broken.

Also, it should not be up to schools to “figure it out.” Schools require active-shooter drills and spend many thousands of dollars on security. They should not bear the burden of becoming fortresses. We are institutions of learning, not high-security prisons.

Red-flag laws show promise for removing firearms from those in crises who are at risk of harming themselves or others. However, gun laws can’t be the only solution. As we recognize the victims of these shootings as precious to us, we must also recognize the shooters who are deeply broken individuals suffering and lashing out terribly, as us too. What has put so many of our young people in such extreme mental crises? How do we care for them so they do not turn to horrendous acts of violence?

Despair, loneliness and a lack of connection play into this. The deep rifts in our country certainly contribute to a climate of anger. Hate speech in public and on social media fuels the normalization of violence. Difficulty in accessing mental-health services leaves individuals desperate and unable to get the support they need.

There is no one solution, but

it is time for us to act. We need to get creative and get involved. We need to find support for parents struggling to raise their kids. Let’s create connections among all of us through activities, interactions and options for service. Every child needs to feel valued, with meaningful connections. If children cannot feel valued, they will not value the lives of those around them. The longer we wait, the more likely it is the next mass shooting is already being planned.

Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304 or 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, June 11
Whippersnapper Hour,
10-11:30 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Avenue S, St. Cloud. Kids ages 7-13 are invited for a crash course at the Spy School! Kids will learn about secret spy tactics during World War II, including Morse Code, writing messages with invisible ink, and solving a mystery at the museum. Members are free; nominal fee for non-members. stearnshistorymuseum.org


Libertyville Summerfest, 11 a.m., Sartell City Hall parking lot, 10 a.m. Parade, 11 a.m. Libertyville and barbeque, 6:30 p.m.


Calendar • page 7


Lock in higher yields now and have the option to raise your rate later.

Take advantage of rising interest rates with our bump-up cd. Lock in a great rate and have the flexibility to request a one-time rate increase if a higher rate is available.

19-month Certificate
1.25% APY!
OR
39-month Certificate
2.25% APY!

MAGNIFI FINANCIAL

 Visit any Magnifi Financial branch like Sartell, St. Joseph or Waite Park

 Call us: (888) 330-8482

*APY= Annual Percentage Yield. APY is effective as of 6/1/2022. \$10,000 minimum original balance required. 50% of money must be new to Magnifi Financial. 19-mo certificate will roll into standard 18-mo certificate at renewal. 39-mo certificate will roll into 36-mo certificate at renewal. Penalty for early withdrawal. Does not apply to municipalities. Limited time offer. Not valid with any other offers. Ask for details. Insured by NCUA.

CLASSIFIEDS

ADOPTION

ADOPTION. California family promises baby loving home, secure future, educational opportunities, devoted grandparents. Generous living/relocation expenses paid. Lindsey and John 1(805)660-4291 or attorney 1(310)663-3467. (mcn)

PRIVATE ADOPTION: A happy, loving couple wish to raise newborn with care, warmth and love. Legal expenses paid. Paul and Val call/text: 1-347-480-9505. http://www.paulandvaladopt.com.(mcn)

AUTOMOBILES

DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. CALL 1-855-977-7030 (mcn)

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-752-6680 (mcn)

CASH FOR CARS! We buy all cars! Junk, high-end, totaled – it doesn’t matter! Get free towing and same day cash! NEWER MODELS too! Call 1-866-258-6720. (mcn)

CABLE/INTERNET

DIRECTV for \$79.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-866-296-1409 (mcn)

Earthlink High Speed Internet. As Low As \$49.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-855-679-7096. (mcn)

DISH Network. \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-855-434-0020 (mcn)

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 855-824-1258. (mcn)

DirecTV Satellite TV Service Starting at \$74.99/month! Free Installation! 160+ channels available. Call Now to Get the Most Sports & Entertainment on TV! 844-558-1767 (mcn)

DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 1/21/23. 1-866-590-6451. (mcn)

FINANCIAL

STOP worrying! SilverBills eliminates the stress and hassle of bill payments. All household bills guaranteed to be paid on time, as long as appropriate funds are available. Computer not necessary. Call for a FREE trial or a custom quote today. SilverBills 1-866-918-0981(mcn)

The COVID crisis has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF! We can help! Get a FREE debt relief quote: Call 1-866-552-0649.(mcn)

HEALTH & MEDICAL

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

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance- NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-973-9175 www.dental50plus.com/https://www.dental50plus.com/midwest #6258 (mcn)

Aloe Care Health, medical alert system. The most advanced medical alert product on the market. Voice-activated! No wi-fi needed! Special offer! Call and mention offer code CARE20 to get \$20 off Mobile Companion. Call today! 1-855-654-1926. (mcn)

PETS/PUPPIES FOR SALE

FLUFFY AKC COCKER SPANIEL PUPS, shots/vet, \$200 down/\$200 mo. 920-563-3410. pennylanecockersspaniel.com #268588. (mcn)

GOLDENDOODLE & BERNE-DOODLE PUPS \$400- \$1800 Very Cute! Ready Now! 715-409-0533. (mcn)

MISCELLANEOUS

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-577-1268. Promo Code 285. (mcn)

Outdoor Market

VFW Post 428

9 18th Ave. N., St. Cloud

Saturday, June 18

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Music • Inflatables • Food

3rd Street Brewhouse

All proceeds benefit local veterans

CARLSON CROSSING TOWNHOMES

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

We are accepting applications for two-bedroom townhomes in St. Joseph, a multi-family development with close amenities and entertainment, nestled in a quiet residential area.

Rent based on income.

FOR RENTAL INFO CALL 320-557-0195 or email ccrossing@brutgerequities.com

Professionally managed by

BRUTGER EQUITIES, INC.

Income guidelines apply.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

AUTO BODY REPAIR

Auto Body 2000

(behind Coborn's in the Industrial Park)

St. Joseph • 320-363-1116

YOUR INDUSTRY

Your Business

Address

City • Phone • Website

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

Looking to save on your water bill?

We service all sprinkler systems and can even improve your current system. Traut Companies is the leader in water management and green building options.

Get a free estimate.

Contact Wayne, Lawn Irrigation Coordinator, at 320-251-5090 or wayneb@trautcompanies.com

WE KNOW Water!

TRAUT

COMPANIES.COM

320-251-5090 | LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

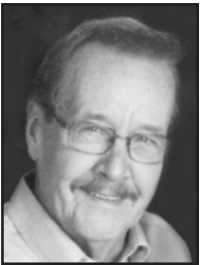
New Address: 32640 County Road 133, St. Joseph

Gerald 'Jerry' H. Peckskamp, 83

Sartell

August 31, 1938-May 27, 2022

Gerald "Jerry" H. Peckskamp, 83, died May 27 at the St. Cloud Hospital. His funeral service was



Peckskamp

held June 3 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell. The Rev. Ronald Weyrens officiated and burial was at the parish cemetery.

Peckskamp was born Aug. 31, 1938 to Henry and Clara (Terway) Peckskamp in Grey Eagle. He married Lorayne Deters on Aug. 16, 1958 at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Sauk Centre. Peckskamp lived most of his life in the St. Cloud area and worked at De-Zurik's for 43 years. He was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 622 of

St. Cloud and was a former member of the St. Cloud Loyal Order of Moose 1400. Peckskamp enjoyed golfing, fishing, camping with his family and bowling. He was a hard-working man who was always helping others and had a great sense of humor. Peckskamp was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather and will be missed by all who knew him.

Survivors include the following: his wife, Lorayne of Sartell; children, Debra (Dean) Headley of Sauk Rapids, Daniel (Darcy) of Scottsdale, Arizona, and Pamela (Randy) Steininger of Sauk Rapids; sisters, Darlene (Vern) Maselow of St Cloud, and Judy Groth of Clarissa; son-in-law, Troy Keske of Sauk Rapids; grandchildren, Blake (Mel) Headley, Drew (Hannah) Headley, Dane (Blair) Headley, Kayla Steininger, and Cory Steininger (Dani Jo Rae); great-grandchildren, Kensi, Liam, Levi, Layne and Kynleigh.

He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Ja-

celyn Keske; brother, David Peckskamp; brother-in-law, Dale Groth; and sister-in-law, Alice Peckskamp.

Special thank you to the all of the staff at the St. Cloud Hospital for their care and support.

Obituary, guest book and video tribute available online: williamsdingmann.com.

Christopher Curt Ringdahl, 45

Sartell

July 25, 1976-May 30, 2022

Christopher Curt Ringdahl, 45, of Sartell, MN, died Monday, May 30 at his home.



Ringdahl

Ringdahl was born July 25, 1976 in Fridley, MN. Ringdahl was baptized at Siloah Lutheran Church in Graceville, MN and confirmed at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie, MN. Ringdahl was an active

cub scout, where he was the number one Christmas wreath salesman for two years and a boy scout while attending Elementary and Middle School in Chanhassen and graduated from Chanhassen/Chaska High School in 1994, he was involved in the High School Theater Department. Ringdahl took some night classes at Minneapolis College of Art and Design(MCAD) and after high school graduation continued at MCAD from 1994-1996 where he excelled in film making and computer animation. Ringdahl told of the times that he could complete a computer 3D rendering in record time by connecting all the computers together in the middle of the night when not in use.

Ringdahl was preceded in death by his mother Janine Ringdahl. Survivors include his father Mark Ringdahl, his brother David (Brooke) Ringdahl and niece Lily.

Arrangements were by Huber Funeral & Cremation Services, Eden Prairie.

People

Nick Hamak of Sartell is one of 10 Rotary Club Junior Rotarian scholarship winners. Hamak recently graduated from Cathedral High School and plans to attend St. John's University for accounting and finance.

Lindsey Clark of Sartell recently received a graduate certificate in

addiction counseling from Winona State University.

Alissa Teigland of Sartell received a bachelor's degree in computer science with summa cum laude honors from Winona State University.

Jessica Daniels of Sartell graduated from Graceland University, Lamoni, Iowa.

Anna Ellis of Sartell recently graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in biology from

Iowa State University, Ames.

Four Sartell students were named to the 2021 fall dean's list at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

They are the following: **Jared Engelkes**, management major; **John Engelkes**, biology major with biomedical science concentration; **Tessa Schwinn**, international business major; and **Carly Yang**, biology major.

Students must earn a minimum 3.5 grade-point average to qualify.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Newsleaders

news@thenewsleaders.com

320-363-7741

Job description is available at Newsleaders.com or Indeed.com

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

Reaching Everybody!

Newsleaders

Newsstands

Coborn's - Riverside

Country Manor

Country Store & Pharmacy

Holiday on 7th

Holiday - Riverside

House of Pizza

Kwik Trip

Little Dukes - Pinecone

Quik Stop - Cenex

Sartell City Hall

Sartell Community Center

School District Offices

Walgreens

The Newsleaders office

Published every other Friday by Von Meyer Publishing Inc.

The Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleaders is the legal newspaper for the Sartell-St. Stephen school district and city of St. Stephen

Publisher/Owner

Janelle Von Pinnon

Editor

Erin McIndoo

Assignment Editor

Carolyn Bertsch

Assistant Manager

Rajahna Schneekloth

Designers

Marg Crumley & Meagan Simonson

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

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

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

Phone: (320) 363-7741 • E-mail: news@thenewsleaders.com

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ST. JOSEPH NEWSLEADER, 1622 11th Ave. SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304

www.thenewsleaders.com

SummerFest back in full glory June 11

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

Sartell SummerFest is back again in full glory.

The popular event will take place in full force Saturday, June 11 with its grand parade, family fun fest, a street dance, fireworks and more.

After more than three decades as an annual city celebration, Sartell SummerFest was cancelled in 2020 because of the Covid pandemic. The celebration was scaled back and modified last June.

SummerFest 2022 will begin at 10 a.m. with a big parade, and this time it will have a different street route due to ongoing construction on CR 1 (Riverside Avenue). The parade, sponsored by Granite Logistics, will begin at the School District Service Building (by St. Francis Xavier Church) and end at Riverview Intermediate School. The parade route will go south on Second Street, turn east onto Fourth Street N., then turn south on Second Avenue North, turn west on Seventh Street North and on to Riverview school.

The parade will feature marching bands, imaginative floats, clowns, candy for kids, fire trucks, dancers and other fun surprises.

Right after the parade, the Libertyville Family Fun event will take place from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on the grounds of Sartell City Hall. Libertyville is named after its long-time annual sponsor, Liberty Bank. It will feature face-painting, bounce houses, games and many other free activities for children and their families to enjoy. Barbeque treats will be served by VoigtJohnon BBQ.

At 6:30 p.m., a street dance will begin in the city-hall parking lot, with music performed live by Radio Nation. The dance will end at 10 p.m. Radio Nation is a well-established four-member country/rock band in central Minnesota. It includes founding member Dave Lumley, singer-guitarist, who has served as the Sartell-St. Stephen High School's band leader for many years. As it has been for years, the street dance is sponsored by Great River Bowl & Partners Pub.

SummerFest night will conclude with a dazzling fireworks display starting at 10:15 p.m. and launched from the grounds of Pine Meadow Primary School. The display will be visible from the grounds of city hall, site of the street dance. The fireworks can also be seen from Riverview Intermediate School (formerly

Sartell Middle School), where there is ample parking. There will also be limited seating on the lawn at Pine Meadow Primary School.

For Libertyville and the street dance events, both on the grounds of city hall, the Scheels Athletic Complex near city hall is making its large parking lot available for festival-goers. There are paths through Pinecone Regional Park so people can walk from one event to another. The path leads from the athletic-complex parking area to city hall.

Correction from May 27

Adela McSorley's graduation photo was inadvertently omitted from the May 27 Sartell Graduation Salute. We apologize for the error.



Adela McSorley
Todd & Angela
McSorley
Attend St. Cloud
Technical &
Community College

Pattison Farm

7001 Rolling Ridge Road, St. Cloud

- Bedding & Vegetable Plants
- Perennials
- Hanging Baskets
- Reasonable Prices

FREE bedding plant
with a minimum \$10 purchase
Exp. Sept. 30, 2022

Call in orders and curbside pickup available



Find us on



The Newsleaders

“We are excited to announce Riverside Plaza located at Seventh Street N. in Sartell has been sold to new ownership effective May 27.”

“We have owned Riverside Plaza, along with Sartell Hardware Hank, Sartell Liquor & Sartell Laundry for 25+ years and have enjoyed serving the community of Sartell.

— John & Yvette Dockendorf






Thank you to all our valued customers who trusted Sartell Hardware Hank, Sartell Liquor & Sartell Laundry for your neighborhood needs.

We wish the new owners best of luck on their new venture.

Create a LEGACY IN STONE

Imagine, Dream, Create...


Creating everlasting stories in stone for people who matter by people who care.



MGC

MURPHY GRANITE CARVING

(800) 818-5836
murphygranite.com



Sizzlin' Summer CD SPECIALS

1.50% 24 month APY*	1.25% 18 month APY*	.85% 9 month APY*
----------------------------------	----------------------------------	--------------------------------

Call a Relationship Banker today!

320.223.6300

St. Cloud | Foley | Richmond | Ham Lake | Isanti | Maple Grove



Falcon
NATIONAL BANK
Member FDIC



*APY= Annual Percentage Yield. A penalty may be applied for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings. \$500 minimum deposit required to obtain APY. Not valid with any other offer. Rates effective as of 5/13/2022.Expires on or before 7/31/2022.

DENTAL CARE | GEAR

Smart Electric Toothbrushes

The American Dental Association recommends that people brush their teeth twice a day for two minutes using fluoride toothpaste.

Ensuring your removing prevalent plaque is significant to prevent decay and re-mineralize enamel. When choosing a brush, they suggest using soft bristles and replacing them every three to four months.

If you're bored with a traditional toothbrush, rest assured that smart technology can save the day. Today's models come with innovative features that will benefit your oral health. Check out these updated options that were showcased at a recent Consumer Electronics Show.

iO

Equipped with a dentist-inspired round brush design, the iO is designed to provide near professional care with each use. It features a Smart Pressure Sensor that guides the user to avoid brushing too hard, harming teeth and gums.

There are numerous modes to achieve different cleanliness levels, including whitening, daily clean and tongue cleaning. One of its next-level features is the 3D Teeth Tracking and AI Recognition software. It uses an interactive

display to guide users for the deepest clean in all areas of the mouth.

If you need help staying on top of your oral care, the brush even connects to Bluetooth to keep track of your habits.

PLAQLESS PRO

The winner of the 2020 CES Best of Innovation Award in Health and Beauty coaches its

users in real-time to achieve the most effective cleaning. The Plaqless Pro is equipped with optic sensor technology to detect biofilm buildup and guides the operator to the compromised area. Once the tooth is determined clean, the brush will alert you and moves on to the next recommended spot. It uses onboard sensors that connect to an app that customizes the

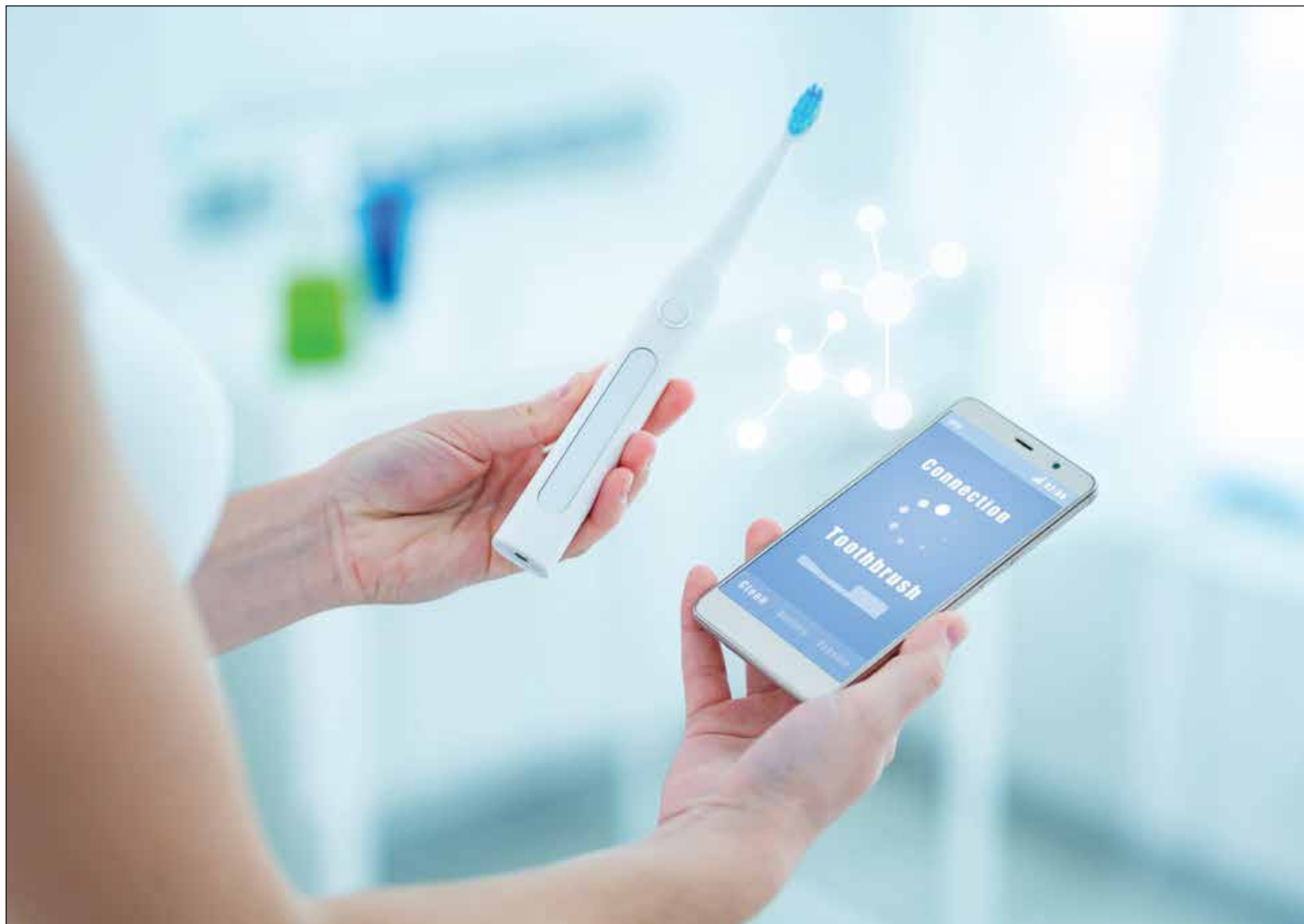
brushing experience with precise techniques. After finishing the job, users receive instant feedback on their habits, personalized data and oral care tips.

Y-BRUSH

The Y-Brush offers a new twist on traditional toothbrushes, claiming to clean one's mouth in just 10 seconds. The first difference you

may notice is its design. Rather than a brush with a handle, this model takes more of a mouth guard shape.

A user adds their favorite toothpaste, chews the bristles for five minutes, then flips and repeats. The motorized unit takes care of the brushing by expertly completing the Bass technique of toothbrushing and leaving the mouth fresh and clean.



© ADOBE STOCK



Providing Great Family Dental Care

We're here to serve you!



- Advanced Technology
- Relaxed Setting
- Emergency Care
- Extractions
- Root Canal Therapy
- Whitening
- Cleanings
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Fillings
- Dentures
- Crowns and Bridges

Specialized dentistry for infants, children and teens

New patients and emergencies welcome

PEDIATRIC DENTISTS CARING FOR KIDS



- **Pediatric trained staff** to provide caring treatment
- **Digital x-rays** to keep smiles healthy
- **Movies and video games** to make dental visits more fun for kids



Sarah Welch, D.D.S.
Pediatric Dentist

Board Certified, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Member, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry



Ashley Turritin, D.D.S.
Pediatric Dentist

Board Certified, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Member, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

Calendar

from page 3

street dance, 10:15 p.m. fire-works. Giant inflatables, crazy hairdos, face painting and air-brush tattoos.

Sartell historical society pa-per mill remembrance. 1-4 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell. Model train show, paper mill memorabilia.

Monday, June 13
Sartell City Council, 6-8 p.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

Tuesday, June 14
Diabetes Prevention Pro-gram: A Whitney Wellness Workshop, 9-10 a.m. Workshop meets every Tuesday throught -July 26 in-person at Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. whitneywell-ness.org

Sartell Chamber of Com-merce, 11:30 a.m., The Waters Church, 1227 Pinecone Road, Sartell.

National Alliance on Mental Illness, 7-8:30 p.m., currently meeting via Zoom on the sec-ond and fourth Tuesday of each month. Please visit namistcloud.

com for registration details. This group is for family and friends of a person dealing with a mental illness, any diagnosis, any age. Learn coping and problem-solv-ing skills. Questions, call 320-654-1259, or email fsnamist-cloud@gmail.com.

Wednesday, June 15
Gubernatorial candidate Dr. Scott Jensen meet and greet, 6 p.m., Wilson Park, 625 Riverside Drive NE, St. Cloud.

Thursday, June 16
American Legion-Sartell, open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S, Sartell.

Saturday, June 18
Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Method-ist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell. Free.

Monday, June 20
Sartell-St. Stephen school board, 6:30 p.m., District Service Center, 212 Third Ave. N. Sartell.

Tuesday, June 21
Diabetes Prevention Pro-gram: A Whitney Wellness Workshop, 9-10 a.m. Workshop meets every Tuesday through July 26 in-person at Whitney

Senior Center, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. whitneywell-ness.org

Memory Writers group devel-ops topics and turns in stories, 10 a.m.-noon, Stearns History Mu-seum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud. Contact Jan Sorell for more info at jsorrell97@gmail.com. Free for museum members; nominal fee for non-members. https://www.stearnshistorymuseum.org/

Shop • Print a poster • Have a snack • Learn something

LOVE is LOVE

A letterpress print shop

BRUNO PRESS
Open Shopday
Thursday
June 16th • 4-8pm
PRIDE MONTH

154 5th Ave Se • St. Joseph • Enter the garage • mcbrunopress.com

Join us for worship
this summer!

Sunday services 9 a.m.
in person or online

Coffee & treats
following the service

Wednesday evening outdoor services
the third Wednesday
of June, July & August
light meal at 6 p.m., worship at
6:30 p.m. followed by s'mores

Resurrection Lutheran Church • 610 N. County Road 2
St. Joseph • 320-363-4232

minnesota street MARKET
A LOCALLY GROWN FOOD CO-OP

PLANT SEASON IS HERE
Tomatoes, Herbs, Veggies, Native Flowers

FRESH, NATURAL, ORGANIC PRODUCE. LOCALLY BAKED BREADS & PASTRIES. LOCAL EGGS, MILK & MEAT. LOCAL HONEY & MAPLE SYRUP. LOCALLY MILLED FLOURS & OATS. LOCAL CHEESES. HEALTH SNACKS. COLD DRINKS. AN INSPIRED COLLECTION OF LOCAL ART, CARDS & GIFTS.

Located in historic 1899 Loso Building
27 WEST MINNESOTA STREET, ST. JOSEPH
WWW.MNSTREETMARKET.COM

LIBERTYVILLE

JUNE 11
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
CITY OF SARTELL

Voigt Johnson Barbeque
• While supplies last

TONS OF FREE FUN!
GIANT INFLATABLES • CRAZY HAIRDOS
FACE PAINTING • AIRBRUSH TATTOOS

This event brought to you by

SUMMERFEST
JUNE 8 EVENT SCHEDULE
GRANITE LOGISTICS PARADE
10 a.m. | RIVERSIDE AVENUE
LIBERTYVILLE VI
Noon | BERNICK'S AVENUE
VOIGT JOHNSON BARBEQUE
Noon | BERNICK'S ARENA
GREAT RIVER BOWL & PARTNERS PUB STREET DANCE
6 p.m. | GREAT RIVER BOWL & PARTNERS PUB
BLUE LINE BAR & GRILL FIREWORKS
10 p.m. | BEHIND GREAT RIVER BOWL & PARTNERS PUB

Sartell High School celebrates graduates



photos by Mike Knaak
Kare Ellis was one of two senior speakers.



Anthony Berndt was the class valedictorian.



Cameron Huse was the class salutatorian.



The high school wind ensemble, directed by Dave Lumley, provides music.





ExteriorPro

Everyone Needs a Good Roofer

Roofing - Siding - Gutters - Windows - Doors

www.myexteriorpro.com

1-844-ASK-4PRO

Owner: Josh 320-339-4540

Owner: Erik 320-761-5909

Licensed, Bonded, and Insured. MN License #BC681135



Family and friends watch for their students to enter.

Boost

from front page

rived at schools Monday mornings, they had less hunger pains and were eager and ready to learn.

The FACT program was a success, but according to its current chairperson, Zurya Anjum, a long-time Sartell resident, FACT needs a financial boost. She told the Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader that the desperate need for food has outgrown the program’s resources.

Since FACT began five years ago, the number of children needing the program has grown to 510 students each week. They include students from Sartell-St. Stephen, Sauk Rapids/Rice and St. Cloud school districts.

“It may surprise you to learn that food insecurity is right around us and not a problem for just Third World countries,” said FACT Chairperson Anjum. “With the global pandemic and

food-supply shortages, things have been very tough, but we need to grow the number of kids we feed. At this point, with shipping and food prices significantly higher, we can no longer budget to feed the 510 kids we will have for the next school year.”

Anjum called it a heartbreaking decision.

“We will need to cut back on the number of kids we feed or make food bags smaller,” she said. “It breaks our hearts to take away food from a kid.”

For each child in need, it costs \$6 to provide a FACT Pack for a child for one weekend. That equates to \$216 per child for a school year.

“Every year, enrollment numbers continue to grow,” Anjum said. “Even if we do not add any kids this coming year, we do not want to take food away from any (current) kids. Please help us with our mission to feed these kids.”

It’s estimated in central Minnesota, one in five children

suffers from food insecurity and occasional hunger, not knowing for sure if or when that next meal will happen.

FACT serves 12 schools in the greater St. Cloud area – Sartell-St. Stephen District 748, St. Cloud District 742 and Sauk Rapids/Rice District 47.

Students eligible for the program are those in grades K through 8. FACT Packs are one-gallon-sized bags that contain a non-perishable breakfast, lunch and nutritional snacks for those days when schools are not in session. The packs are placed discreetly into the backpack of each participating student on Friday or the last day of school before a break.

The foods are carefully selected for nutritious value (fruits, vegetables, protein). Examples are cereals, oatmeal, mac-and-cheese, tuna salad, crackers, cheese sticks, sunflower kernels, apple sauce and raisins.

There are also FACT pantries in each school that can provide shelf-stable food for students

and families.

FACT Break Boxes are filled with enough foods to last for extended school breaks of one week in length or longer.

Parents must fill out an enrollment form, which can be obtained in the school’s office or online at the FACT website, which is stcloudfact.org

People can also donate to the program on that website. FACT is not a government program. It is funded solely by tax-deductible donations from individuals, foundations and businesses. A network of volunteers is also vital for the ongoing success of FACT. Volunteer opportunities include helping pack the food packs, counting inventory, loading and unloading food supplies, hosting donation drives, grant-writing, marketing and website development. To find out more, visit info@stcloudfact.org.

Another way to contribute is to designate Central Minnesota FACT as a designated charity on Amazon Smile so a portion

of each purchase will help fund FACT.

On the FACT website, there are lists of the kinds of non-perishable and frozen foods and comfort items that can be donated to the program.

Corporate sponsorships are also an option. Current local sponsors include Celebration Lutheran Church, Sartell; Coborn’s; Walmart; Jules’ Bistro, St. Cloud; and many more.

On the website is a video of testimony from parents and school officials on what an impressive impact the FACT program is having on children: increased food security, renewed confidence and hope and even improvements in school performance.

Those who would like to donate by mail can send a check to Feeding Area Children Together; 2625 Clearwater Road, Suite 140; St. Cloud, MN 56301.

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 tricounty-crimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.

May 20

2:35 a.m. DWI. Second Street S. A woman was slumped over in her car with the motor running at the gas pumps. The officers asked the woman to step out of the vehicle because of slurred speech, watery eyes and the odor of alcohol. The woman’s breath test was over the legal limit. The woman was arrested and cited for fourth-degree DWI. The jail would not take her because of Covid restrictions.

May 21

10:12 a.m. Crash. Seventh Street N. Officers closed the road for the Apple Duathlon. While officers were there a driver crashed into the barricades. The driver told officers she did not see the officers, squads or the barricades. The barricades were destroyed. The driver was cited for inattentive driving.

May 22

1:50 a.m. Assist agency. Sartell officers were requested to help St. Cloud police in downtown St. Cloud. There was a large fight and several officers were accidentally Maced. A Sartell officer assisted with clearing a business parking lot and nearby parking ramp.

May 23

10:27 a.m. Theft. 11th Street N. A man called Sartell police about a theft from his home. The man reported his pedestal boat seat had been stolen from his boat in the driveway. The seat was valued at \$100 and is tan and brown. The man wanted to let the police department know in case of other thefts in the area.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN, STEARNS COUNTY, MINNESOTA NEW PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY ORDINANCE

A summary of an ordinance to enact a new Chapter of the City of St. Stephen Code of Ordinances to administer and regulate the public rights of way in the public interest, and to provide for the issuance and regulation of right-of-way permits.

1. The City Council has adopted a lengthy ordinance administering and regulating the public rights of way in the public interest and providing for issuance and regulation of right-of-way permits. The purpose of this summary is to inform the public of the intent and effect of the ordinance and to publish only a summary of the ordinance pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 412.191, with the full ordinance being on file in the office of the City Clerk during regular office hours.

2. The City of St. Stephen Code of Ordinances is amended by adding a new chapter, Chapter 33. The new chapter provides essentially as follows:

Sec. 1.01. Findings, Purpose, and Intent.
States the reason and the need for the city to more effectively manage the public rights of way.

Sec. 1.02. Election to Manage the Public Rights of Way.
States the intent of the Council to manage the public right of way pursuant to and in accordance with the authority given to it under state and federal statutory, administrative, and common law.

Sec. 1.03. Definitions.
Certain words in the ordinance are defined here. This section also incorporates definitions adopted by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in state rules.

Sec. 1.04. Administration.
Names the principal city official responsible for the administration of the city right-of-way ordinance.

1.05. Registration and Right-of-Way Occupancy and Sec. 1.06. Registration Information.
Requires those using and occupying the public rights of way to register with the city and provide basic essential information.

Sec. 1.07. Permit Requirement; 1.08, Permit Applications; 1.09, Issuance of Permit Conditions; and 1.10, Action on Small Wireless Facility Permit Applications, and 1.11, Permit Fees.
Describes the requirements for obtaining a permit and paying appropriate permit fees before excavating or in any way obstructing the public rights of way.

Sec. 1.12. Right-of-Way Patching and Restoration.
Contains the requirements for restoring the public rights of way after excavation, and adopts the restoration standards contained in Minnesota Public Utilities Commission rules.

Sec. 1.13. Joint Applications.

Sec. 1.14. Supplementary Applications.

Sec. 1.15. Other Obligations.

Sec. 1.16. Denial of Permit.
Specifies the grounds for denying a right-of-way permit.

Sec. 1.17. Installation Requirements.
Specifies that the installation of utility facilities in the public rights of way shall comply with city requirements and applicable rules of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Sec. 1.18. Inspection.

Sec. 1.19. Work Done Without a Permit.

Sec. 1.20. Supplementary Notification.

Sec. 1.21. Revocation of Permits.
Describes the grounds and procedures for revoking right-of-way permits.

Sec. 1.22. Mapping Data.
Adopts rules of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission describing the mapping information that must be provided by those placing utility facilities in the public rights of way.

Sec. 1.23. Location and Relocation of Facilities.
Describes the requirement regarding location of utilities and further adopts Minnesota Public Utilities Commission rules regarding the circumstances when utilities can be forced to relocate their facilities.

Sec. 1.24. Pre-Excavation Facilities Location.

Sec. 1.25. Damage to Other Facilities.

Sec. 1.26. Right-of-Way Vacation.

Sec. 1.27. Indemnification and Liability.
Specifies the circumstances in which those placing facilities in the public rights of way will be required to defend and indemnify the city for actions brought against the city.

Sec. 1.28. Abandoned and Unusable Facilities.

Sec. 1.29. Appeal.
Describes the process for challenging a city’s decision involving application of this ordinance.

Section 1.30 Reservation of Regulatory and Police Powers

Sec. 1.31 Severability.

3. The City Council has determined that publication of the title and summary of the rights-of-way management ordinance as set forth in this summary will clearly inform the public of the intention and effect of the ordinance. The Council also directs that only the title and this summary be published. A copy of the entire text of the ordinance shall be posted in St. Stephen City Hall and available for viewing upon request.

Publish: June 10, 2022

Opinion

Our View

Warm summer days are upon us

It is finally June which means the first day of summer is fastly approaching. Soon enough we will have forgotten all about the cold windy days of winter and will be able to enjoy the great outdoors once again.

Summer is when students finally have free time to do whatever they want and not have to worry about going to school or doing their homework. There are also endless things to do. It's even a great time to take a vacation and see new places.

Instead of being cooped up in the house all day watching TV or playing video games, go outside and go for a walk or try a new sport. It's important to move your body, breathe fresh air and absorb all the sun's great vitamin D.

There are a lot of pickleball courts in the surrounding area and some of you may even find you have a knack for it. If you haven't heard of pickleball, it is basically a combination of tennis and ping-pong. It's fun, fast-paced and before you know it you'll be breaking a sweat.

There are also a lot of great walking trails in the area to get your steps in and enjoy a slice of nature while you're at it. If you want more of a challenge, the Quarry Park and Nature Preserve in St. Cloud combines a little bit more hiking and a place to jump in the water to cool off.

In our adjoining towns where there is so much river access, it is almost a crime not to go kayaking or boating sometime this summer. The Sauk and Mississippi rivers have some great parks along them to enjoy the views or have as a starting point to launch your boat. With the recent rainfall, both rivers have been higher than normal and could be a super fun, fast trip for an afternoon.

Hopefully everyone has a fun and eventful summer ahead of them, with plenty of new experiences.

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.

Wake up! Guns DO kill people

Isn't it crazy every time there's a mass shooting, it's never the guns that take any blame?

So many lying lawmakers scold us that "guns don't kill people."

It's mental-health issues – not guns, they insist.

It's lax building security – not guns.

It's bad upbringing – not guns.

It's this, that and the other thing – never guns.

In this country, there are 400 million guns, many in the hands of mentally unstable people. There have been 230 mass shootings so far this year – mass shootings meaning the killing or wounding of four or more people per incident.

Texas Sen. Ted Cruz spoke at the National Rifle Association convention in Houston just days after the butchery of 19 school children and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas. Cruz is resorting to his smug mantra: It's mental illness; it's a lack of targeting felons and fugitives; gun-control efforts won't work; such efforts are just more "politicking" by Democrats and the media.

Cruz said the victims are in his thoughts and prayers. Oh yes, always thoughts and prayers. But no action.

Meantime, mealy-mouthed Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell is mumbling his usual charade, as he does after every massacre. The Democrats and Republicans, he said, should sit down and see if they can agree on "reasonable" legislation. By reasonable, McConnell surely means laws that won't pass (he'll make sure of that!) or laws with no teeth.

Dennis Dalman

Reporter



Ten years ago, after the killings of children and teachers in Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, McConnell and fellow Republicans blocked gun legislation. The bill called for expanding background checks to gun shows and online sales; and for banning military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammo magazines. The measures failed to pass.

McConnell and Cruz are just two of the Republicans (along with some Democrats) who have long danced like giddy puppets to the tune of the NRA. For worshipping at the Sacred Gun Altar, those politicians are handily rewarded by millions of campaign funds from the NRA, which, by the way, has been embroiled in financial corruption for years.

Like McConnell, some politicians get nervous by the public outrage about the latest killings. As always, they offer thoughts and prayers, hopes and wishes. Wispy words, idle sympathies. But no action. And God forbid, no action against guns that don't kill people. These politicians, so handcuffed by the Gun Lobby, know that the fuss will blow over – at least until the next election or until the next mass killings occur.

Should we strengthen the mental-health care system? Certainly. Should

we constantly review and reinforce schools' and other buildings' security systems? Absolutely.

But first and foremost, should we demand accountability from our legislators, insisting they pass a comprehensive gun-safety bill? Yes! Those who scorn such a bill as an "attack on the Second Amendment," as they always do, should be ashamed. Not doing everything in our collective power to at least try to prevent such shootings is inexcusable, criminal. Other countries have passed such laws, with provable success.

Those who devoutly believe the Second Amendment is untouchable have a few things to learn about the U.S. Constitution and how it has changed over time by way of amendments and new laws: civil-rights laws, Blacks' right to vote, women's right to vote, to name a few, and – last but not least – limitations of rights enshrined in the Constitution. For example, the First Amendment (Freedom of Speech/Press), which does not protect libel, slander or using words to incite violence.

Those so-called leaders who will not act to try to prevent mass shootings should be voted out of office at the first opportunity. Ask yourselves: do they want to protect the Gun Lobby or do they want to protect children from butchery?

Remember: Guns DO kill people. And if you don't believe that, go ask the murdered children's loved ones who will be grieving forever after.

Finally! A verdict in the Depp vs. Heard case

Like many, in the last month or so I have heard, seen and read so much about the defamation court case that has been going on between actors Johnny Depp and Amber Heard. For those not familiar, Depp and Heard were married from 2015-2017 and then in 2018 Heard wrote an opinion piece for The Washington Post that claimed she had endured sexual violence in the past. Depp's name was never mentioned in the article but because of their marriage, the public treated him differently.

Depp also felt he saw a decline in the amount of acting roles he got after the article was published and he even got fired from one of his most well known series: The Pirates of the Caribbean. This led to him filing the defamation case against Heard. As an actor, the thing that makes the most money is your reputation and he said he felt Heard had damaged his reputation when she decided to publish the article.

Personally, I think as a celebrity it is very important what opinions you put

Erin McIndoo

Editor



out into the world. For a long time sexual assault and violence was a touchy subject and it was hard to speak out about it like Heard suggested. It is important for women to have a voice and there is no way to know what really happened between Depp and Heard behind closed doors. However, I still appreciate she was willing to write an opinion piece advocating for women like she did.

That being said, everything I saw about this case seemed like a huge publicity stunt for some parties. Like I stated before, a celebrity's reputation means everything and I think Heard's reputation took a huge hit because of this case. There were so many ridiculous moments it seemed because of the questions that Heard's lawyers would ask. Plus, to have their lives so openly

discussed, I think many people would feel embarrassed if they had their lives on display like that.

It seemed like every time I went on Instagram or Tik Tok, every other post was a snippet of the witness from that particular day, someone explaining what happened and what it meant or a meme of Heard crying on the stand. But yet I was relieved to see this last week they had finally reached a verdict and I would be able to see more of my normal feed on social media. The jury ruled unanimously in favor of Depp and he will receive \$50 million in damages, which seems like an insane number, but maybe makes sense compared to all the jobs he lost because of the article.

While watching cases like this unfold can be entertaining, it's also important to pay attention to other breaking events that happen too. I think it's common that people get distracted by the happenings of celebrities and forget to see the state of the world around them sometimes.

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

The Importance of Mouth Guards

For adults and children who participate in physical sports, a mouth guard is a crucial tool required to protect your smile.

When partaking in activities like football, basketball or mixed martial arts, this protective barrier cushions blows to the face. They are efficient in minimizing situations like a broken jaw, chipped teeth or lip injuries. Foregoing the protection equipment during combat sports can lead to expensive oral surgeries or permanent damage. Some think that mouth guards are dangerous to the integrity of our teeth and gums. However, when used correctly and properly cared for, they can be injury-saving resources. Suppose you or someone you know needs this type of guard. In that case, it can be beneficial to visit a dentist to be fitted to custom specifications.



© ADOBE STOCK

CHOOSING A MOUTH GUARD

While there are numerous mouth guards available at sporting goods stores, the most efficient option is custom-made for its user. Your local dentist can analyze your oral make-up and design the perfect fit that offers pinnacle protection. If this one-of-a-kind option isn't in your

budget, there are other styles to consider. Here is more about different choices from the American Dental Association.

- **Boil and bite.** The partially custom mouth guard begins as a solid mold until they are boiled and softened. Once inserted in the mouth, they quickly adapt to the shape of the user. It's crucial for the best

results to choose an option that has earned the ADA Seal of Acceptance.

- **Stock.** These are designed with a one-size-fits-all approach. They are pre-formed and ready for use but have disadvantages, making it challenging to breathe or talk. If you can't afford a custom mouth guard, it's a good idea to

discuss better options with your dentist to avoid injuries or an ineffective model.

CARE AND REPLACEMENT

Your mouth guard is ready for a replacement at the first sign of wear or damage. Analyze it before every use to ensure the mold is intact and comfortable. As they age, it's

common for a protector to become ill-fitting. To prolong the use you get from a mouth guard, proper care is crucial. Make sure to clean it with soap and water after use and keep it in a dry area during storage. Your container should be vented to allow airflow and avoid bacteria growth.

HELPING
FAMILIES
SMILE!

LAWSON
family dental

2395 Troop Drive #101 Sartell • 320-252-6191
lawsonfamilydental.com

Milbert,
Johnson
& Cotton

FAMILY DENTISTRY

320-363-7729
1514 E. MN. St. St. Joseph MN 56374
office@stjoedds.com

Love Reporting?

ATTENTION:
Local St. Joseph & Sartell-St. Stephen
freelance reporters needed!

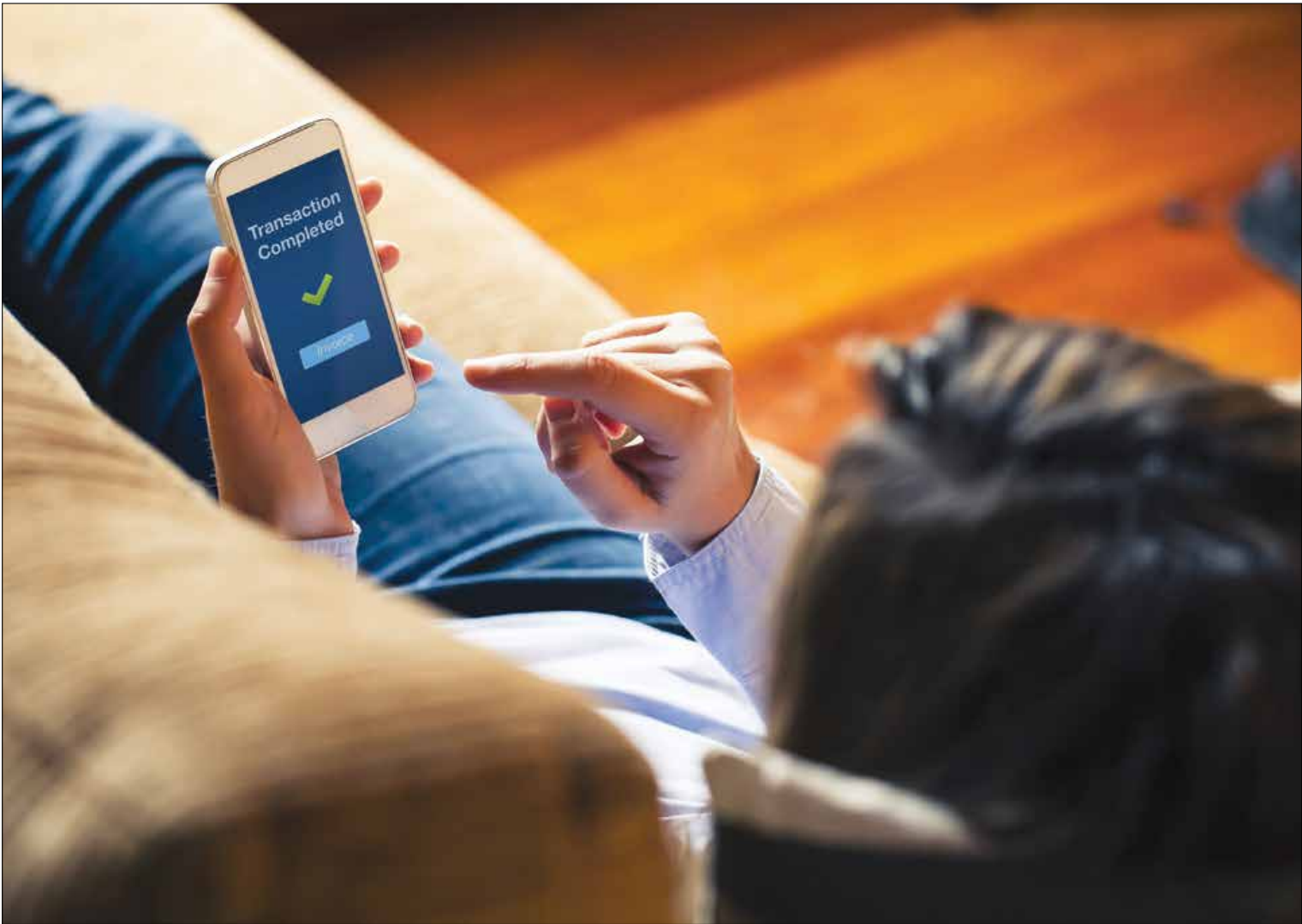
Job description is available at Newsleaders.com
Apply by emailing your resume and two writing samples
to News@TheNewsleaders.com

Newsleaders
news@thenewsleaders.com
320-363-7741

Looking for a Money App?

Having trouble balancing your checkbook or creating an investment strategy? As with most everything else, there's an app for that.

In fact, there are so many smartphone applications designed to help you track finances and your portfolio that it can become overwhelming. Here's a look at some of the best-known apps.



© ADOBE STOCK

MINT

Designed by the creators of TurboTax and Quicken, Mint creates a personal budget based on your data. Sync your financial accounts, and Mint will offer customized tips to reduce spending. Easy-to-read graphs and charts help you track everything. Mint automatically sets up categories, but there are unlimited choices to personalize any budget. The downside: Like others including Goodbudget, Mint might not be ideal for someone looking to more hands-on, since it tracks your spending after the fact rather than helping you plan ahead.

ACORNS

Think of this app as the modern-day version of that jar of loose change everyone used to have. Acorns allows its users to round up on any purchase to the next highest dollar amount, then invest this additional money in a customized

portfolio. Many investors are pleasantly surprised at how quickly these pennies turn into a real investment. You can also earn cash-back benefits at select retailers — a smart way to save. The downside: Acorns charges small fees, but that can erase any returns if your balance is low enough.

YNAB

Those looking for a more

hands-on budgeting experience might consider YNAB, which is designed to help you plan ahead rather than track past financial decisions. You'll follow a zero-based plan where every dollar is accounted for, based on information you provide about expenses, savings and goals. The downside: By design, YNAB requires a commitment to personal financial planning,

but the idea of becoming more intentional with spending can help solve some users' cash woes.

PERSONAL CAPITAL

This wealth and spending tracker is primarily for investments, but the app also includes budgeting features to help control spending. Personal Capital connects to savings, checking and credit

cards, along with all relevant accounts like 401(k), IRAs, loans and mortgages, then provides a helpful all-encompassing breakdown of your portfolio. You'll also get a snapshot of your monthly spending by category. The downside: With its focus on investments, Personal Capital might have features that would go unused by those simply focused on budgeting.



Commercial real estate loans

Because every detail makes a difference.

StearnsBank.com/Newsleaders
[\(320\) 253-6607](tel:(320)253-6607)



STEARNS

BANK N.A.

[Follow us](#)     | [Member FDIC](#) | [Equal Housing Lender](#) 

