

# Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader

Friday, Jan. 26, 2018  
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## Town Crier

### Sartell Summer Baseball registration now open

The 2018 Summer Sartell Baseball Registration is open. Please go to SartellBaseball.com to register.

### Local K of C to sponsor youth free-throw contest

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2017 Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship to be held Sunday, Jan. 28 at the All Saints Academy-St. Joseph gym. Registration and practice is at 12:30 p.m. and the contest begins at 1 p.m.

The Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship is sponsored annually with winners progressing through local, district and state competition. International champions are announced by the K of C international headquarters based on scores from the state-level competitions. Last year, more than 120,000 sharpshooters participated in more than 3,600 local competitions.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For any additional information contact Mark Berg-Arnold at 320-363-1077.

### Program helps support leadership development for minorities

The Juggad Leadership Program seeks to provide Central Minnesota's minority community with the knowledge, skills and resources necessary to become effective leaders at the grassroots level. The program is accepting nominations for participation in this year's class and self-nominations are encouraged. Businesses and organizations may nominate individuals to participate in the program. Those interested in participating in the program must complete an application. Selected participants will meet monthly, from March to August, with a graduation ceremony in September. Applications are due Friday, Feb. 9. The program planning committee will review the applications and notify those selected by the end of February. Apply at <http://www.jugaadlp.org/apply>. For more information, email [info@jugaadlp.org](mailto:info@jugaadlp.org) or phone 320-310-2246.

## New high school, fundraising, calendar occupy board attention

by Dave DeMars  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

The Sartell-St. Stephen School Board had a full menu of items that occupied its attention at the regular Jan. 22 meeting. Those concerns included the progress of the new high school, fundraising for a new athletic complex and school calendars for 2018 through 2020.

Lee Gruen, project manager for the new high school, presented the board with a progress report. Eight working days have been lost in December and January because of cold weather setting exterior framing back about a week. Despite that Gruen was optimistic in his assessment of progress made on days that were able to be worked.

Precast walls in the theater area and the gym are complete with work starting on the pool as of Jan. 18.

Roofing has started on the theater and the use of temporary heat sources has allowed for interior plumbing, electrical and heating work to progress. Much of the work is what is referred to as roughing in.

There is still a concern about the possibility of more cold weather, so the warm days of the past week were very welcome. The building has been divided into eight areas with different work proceeding in each area. Gruen said the entire building should be enclosed and roofed by June 21 of this year. That gives contractors about a year to complete the necessary interior and decorative exterior work. Presently about 50 to 60 workers are on the job. Once the building is enclosed and interior work begins in earnest, it's expected there will be 150 to 200 workers.

The building is on budget and  
**School • page 5**



photo by Dave DeMars

**High school principal Brenda Steve explains how new philosophies about how students learn influenced the design of the new high school. Different learning areas require different types of classrooms.**

## Text-to-911 still in early stages

by Vicki Ikeogu  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

It's been nearly two months since the Minnesota Department of Public Safety launched the text-to-911 service statewide. But since the service has been active, law enforcement throughout Stearns County have seen limited use of the technology.

"As far as I know, we haven't had any 911 calls through texting," said St. Joseph Police Chief Joel Klein.

And the same is true in Sartell. "We had handled one domestic situation where the caller was un-

able to talk but was able to communicate to us through texting," said Sartell Police Chief Jim Hughes.

While the number of text-to-911 calls is not as high as Stearns County Public Safety Services Supervisor Mary Lieser and Stearns County Dispatch Supervisor Michele Burke had originally anticipated when the service went public on Dec. 5, the two believe use of the service will increase as time goes on.

"Other states have implemented it before us," Burke said. "But it's just coming here now."

The text-to-911 system, according to Burke, works similarly to a traditional voice call. People text

their emergency situation to 911 where a dispatcher answers the call for service.

"It rings (the dispatch center) like a phone line does," Burke said. "And when dispatch opens up that message on their screen it will appear almost like a TTY similar to the deaf and hard of hearing. They have machines they can use to make their phone calls where they type back and forth to whoever they are talking to. And (text-to-911) sort of acts like that."

Burke said because of a lack of appropriate infrastructure in place at Stearns County, all of the text-to-911 calls are being handled

through the Mille Lacs County Dispatch Center.

"The state is broken up into regions and we are part of the Central Region," Burke said. "So what happened was they wanted the whole state to go live all at the same time. But not all (county dispatch centers) were able to do that because either they needed upgrades or equipment. So they have one agency per region right now at least who is taking the text-to-911 calls for the rest of the region. And right now, we are not live. Mille Lacs County is the one who is taking the text-to-911s in our region."

**Text • back page**

## 'A Night of Hope for Place of Hope' concert Jan. 26

by Cori Hilsgen  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

If you are looking for something to break up the boredom of staying inside during the cold month of January, the Social Justice Concerns Committee at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell is hosting "A Night of Hope for Place of Hope" concert at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26 to benefit Place of Hope Ministries in St. Cloud.

Fr. Kevin Anderson and Nathan Mathews will perform at the concert, which will feature Anderson's latest recording, *HOPE*. He uses spiritual insights from 30 years of priesthood to form a tranquil

sound that has been described as "Enya meets John Denver meets God."

Anderson said the event is for all ages and faith backgrounds and is a night based on hope to offer hope. It's meant to be an evening of song and reflection and a mini-retreat night.

Mathews said the two plan to perform works Anderson wrote and/or assisted with. The two have worked together on Anderson's compact disc recordings and have performed at many retreats/reflections concerts and benefit concerts.

Mathews may also play a few piano songs he wrote for a recording he created in 2001

called *In-road*.

Anderson, a singer and songwriter, is a pastor at Christ Our Light Catholic Church, which serves Princeton and Zimmerman. Before that, he was pastor at the Newman Center serving the campus of St. Cloud State University, taught religion at Cathedral High School and was a campus minister for the College of St. Benedict. He also served as associate pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral St. Cloud and



Anderson



Mathews

St. Mary's Parish in Little Falls.

Anderson grew up in Elk River where many of his family still resides. He majored in music at St. John's

University in Collegeville and has graduate theology degrees from Loyola University in Chicago and St. John's School of Theology.

For the past 36 years, Anderson has studied voice with Dr. Shirley Ann Holzer of St.

**Hope • page 4**



TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING  
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
DECEMBER 18, 2017  
SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

The public hearing for the proposed 2017 payable 2018 levy started at 6:01 pm called by Vice-Chair Jason Nies. Members present: Jason Nies Vice-Chair; Pamela Raden, Clerk; Patrick Marushin, Treasurer; Mary McCabe, Director; Lesa Kramer, Director; Jeremy Snoberger, Director; and Jeff Schwiebert, Superintendent. Members absent: None.

Business Manager Steve Wruck reviewed the 2017 payable 2018 levy materials including the 2017-2018 budget, types of levies, and property tax calculations.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
DEC. 18, 2017  
SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Vice Chair Jason Nies. Members present: Nies vice chair; Pamela Raden, clerk; Patrick Marushin, treasurer; Mary McCabe, director; Lesa Kramer, director; Jeremy Snoberger, director; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Members absent: None.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by McCabe to APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS: move checks, receipts and wire transfers to the consent agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Snoberger to APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS A-C AS PRESENTED BELOW. All in favor. Motion carried.

- a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on Nov. 20, 2017  
Minutes of the steering committee meeting held on Dec. 13, 2017

- b. Checks in the amount of \$2,173,033.52 as presented:

General Fund	1,900,985.35
Food Service Fund	82,901.70
Transportation Fund	50,873.79
Community Service Fund	37,625.45
Capital Expenditure Fund	99,262.23
Debt Service Fund	375.00
Summer Rec Agency Fund	1,010.00

Check numbers 169985 - 170291  
Receipts in the amount of \$4,897,301.09 as presented:

General Fund	2,545,319.03
Food Service Fund	266,569.64
Transportation Fund	22,269.17
Community Service Fund	116,263.01
Building Fund	19,487.08
Debt Service Fund	t1,925,393.16
Summer Rec Agency Fund	2,000.00

Receipts 43984 - 44086  
Wire transfers in the amount of \$7,176.14 as presented:

General Fund	1,214.71
Food Service Fund	5,095.59
Community Service Fund	865.84

Wire transfers 201700039-201700045

Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$2,479,210.25 as presented:

Building Fund 2,479,210.25  
Check numbers 600171 to 600181

c. Accept the following donations: Pine Meadow Elementary PTO, District #748, \$116.94, Classroom Resources.

Student Representative Report: Nicholas Juntunen, student representative

Juntunen reported on happenings around the district. Oak Ridge held a toy drive for the Salvation Army. The Middle School orchestra performed on Dec. 14 and is hosting the Geo Bee competition on Jan. 8 and Spelling Bee on Jan. 23. High School NHS fundraised just short of \$2,000 for their “Families-In-Need” project and a Model United Nations group is beginning. Some upcoming events include the third annual Tom Bearson Memorial Event and the Choir concert will be tonight. Construction Manager Report on Building Process:

Senior Project Manager Robbie Schultz and Project Manager Lee Gruen reported that roughly 70 precast panels are set at the new site and roofing and exteriors should start around Jan. 15. Pending final approval the pilot classroom will start by the week of Feb. 1. Superintendent Report: Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent

Schwiebert reported all the in-kind donated dirt has been hauled to Pinecone Central Park and Champion Field. Commendations to the Construction Management team for handling safety at the New High School site. Board members were asked to start thinking about fundraising opportunities in the future. School Board Committee Report:

Marushin reported on the Steering Committee meeting and Curriculum and Instruction Advisory Council meeting. Kramer reported on the Community Event held at the Sartell Community Center. Enrollment Report:

Schwiebert reported on the current enrollment numbers for each school. Legislative Update Report:

State Representative Tim O’Driscoll reported on legislative updates and School Land Trust. A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE #1-18:

New Employees/Changes:

Laura Becker-Pallister, PME, cleaner, \$14.18/hour, RI, S1, 3.25 hours/day, replacing Paul Rolfzen, 12/13/2017; Aaron Dowzak, SMS, seventh-grade girls softball, \$1,686 (4.5 percent),

0 (\$37,473), replacing Daryl Scholz, 3/12/2018; Alicia Fosso, SMS, fall play – painter, \$843 (2.25 percent), 0 (\$37,473), per SEA, 2017-19 contract, 9/5/2017; Kevin Greene, SHS, varsity assistant softball, \$4,105 (9.5 percent), E (\$43,214), replacing Paul Determan, 3/12/2018; Anne Jensen, SHS, assistant SHS speech, \$1,729 (4.5 percent), 00 (\$38,433), replacing Samantha Deans, 11/29/2017; Sara Kimman, SMS, fall play – publicity, \$843 (2.25 percent), 0 (\$37,473), per SEA, 2017-19 contract, 9/5/2017; Priscilla Lessard, ORE, food service worker, \$14.18/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Melissa Kramer, 12/4/2017; Emily Meyer, SHS, Big Brothers Big Sisters advisor, \$1,255 (3.35 percent), 0 (\$37,473), new position, increase due to student need, 12/1/2017; Kris Nemanich, DSC, ECSE, 1/2/2018; Jessica Roske, PME, student supervisor, \$13.87/hour, RI, S1, 2 hours/day, replacing Angela Hyde, 12/11/2017; Julie Schnettler, SMS, fall play – prop design, \$843 (2.25 percent), 0 (\$37,473), per SEA, 2017-19 contract, 9/5/2017; Jacob Smith, SMS, eighth-grade softball, \$1,686 (4.5 percent), 0 (\$37,473), replacing Joe Stangle, 3/12/2018; Joe Stangle, SHS, junior varsity assistant softball, \$3,833 (9.5 percent), B (\$40,344), replacing Kevin Greene, 3/12/2018.

Leaves of Absence:

Paul Determan, SMS, teacher, LOA, 1/23/18 - 2/23/18; Michelle Gohl, SHS, para, LOA, 3/14/18 – 4/3/18; Kristin Hanson, SMS, teacher, LOA, 4/24/18 – 6/1/18; Kelly Nystrom, SMS, teacher, LOA, 12/4/17 – 1/4/18; Kathryn Young, SMS, teacher, LOA, 3/6/18 – 5/8/18.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by McCabe and seconded by Snoberger to APPROVE PERMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO DRAW UP A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH SHAWN AND ELICIA OMANN FOR A TOTAL PURCHASE PRICE OF \$255,500 FOR 42.56 ACRES OF DISTRICT-OWNED LAND IN ST. STEPHEN, METES AND BOUNDS 42.56 A. SW4SE4 and W 98.5’ OF SE4SE4 CITY OF ST STEPHEN, SECTION-TOWNSHIP-RANGE 25-126-029, (PIN 90.55910.0020). All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE REVISIONS TO POLICIES 101.1, 102 and 105. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by McCabe to APPROVE THE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2017 PAYABLE 2018 PROPERTY TAX LEVY AS PRESENTED. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Snoberger to APPROVE

CLERICAL, PARAPROFESSIONAL, 284 MULTI-UNIT, CERTIFIED STAFF AND ECFE SENIORITY LISTS. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Raden to APPROVE THE SCHOOL LAND TRUST RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MINNESOTA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by McCabe and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING AGREEMENT. All in favor. Motion carried.

Action was postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting for approving the contract with school service employees local representing the clerical employees.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by Kramer to APPROVE THE INTERPRETER CONTRACT WITH AHMED ABDI, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. All in favor. Motion carried.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Organizational Meeting – Monday, Jan. 8 – District Services Center at 6 p.m.  
Future Board Meeting - Monday, Jan. 22 - District Services Center at 6 p.m.  
Official Review of Policies:

The Board completed official review of policies 106, 201, 203, 203.1, 203.2, 203.5, 203.6, 204, 207, 211, 212, 213, 214 and 215.

The Board had the official first reading of revision of policies 202, 205, 206, 208, 209, 210, 533, 620 and 903.

The Board took a five-minute recess at 7:36 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:44 p.m.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by McCabe TO CLOSE THE MEETING FOR NEGOTIATIONS STRATEGY PURSUANT TO MN STAT. 13D.03. All in favor. Motion carried. Business Director Steve Wruck and Human Resources Director Krista Durrwachter were invited to join the discussion.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Kramer at 8:23 p.m. TO OPEN THE MEETING. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:23 p.m. was made by Marushin and seconded by McCabe. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Pamela Raden, clerk

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## Blotter

*If any readers have tips concerning crimes, they should call the Sartell Police Department at 251-8186 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 255-1301 or access its tip site at [www.tricountycrimes-toppers.org](http://www.tricountycrimes-toppers.org). Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for crimes.*

### Jan. 10

9:50 a.m. DWI. CR 120. Officers were dispatched to a facility for a report of a person who had showed up impaired to his appointment. The person had stated to staff members that he had driven himself to the appointment. Officers were told staff members had seated the man in an exam room. Officers arrived on scene and conducted field sobriety testing on the man. He failed all testing. He was placed under arrest and could be charged with third-degree DWI. He was transported to the Stearns County Jail without incident.

### Jan. 11

7:30 a.m. Traffic accident. Pinecone and Second Street S. An officer was dispatched to a report of a vehicle accident involving a sign. The officer arrived on scene and located the driver and her vehicle parked in the adjacent Liberty Bank parking lot. The driver stated she was attempting to travel around the roundabout when she lost control on the icy roadway and struck a traffic sign with the right side of her vehicle. The sign was broken off and the vehicle sustained moderate damage but was drivable. The officer received the driver’s insurance information and advised city maintenance of the incident. City maintenance workers arrived on scene and removed the sign.

### Jan. 12

9:15 a.m. Medical. 14 Avenue E. Offices were dispatched to a local business for a report of an employee who was having chest pain and blurred vision. Officers arrived on scene and were immediately directed to a male patient. The man stated he had been having pain since 5 a.m. that morning and the pain was now radiating to his arm. An officer checked the man’s radial pulse and found it to be irregular. Gold Cross Ambulance arrived on scene and conducted an EKG on the patient. The paramedics concluded the man was in atrial fibrillation. The officers assisted paramedics with loading the patient for transport to St. Cloud Hospital.

### Jan. 13

10:05 p.m. Medical. Third Street N. An officer was dispatched to a report of a 63-year-old woman who had fallen outside while walking the dog. The officer arrived on scene and located the woman in her kitchen. The officer observed a visible break in the woman’s arm in between her elbow and shoulder. The officer supported the injury until Gold Cross

Ambulance arrived on scene. The officer then assisted with splinting the arm. The woman was transported to St. Cloud Hospital by Gold Cross.

### Jan. 14

1:36 p.m. Warrant arrest. 19 Avenue S. Officers were advised a man wanted for fourth-degree assault was present at a residence in Sartell. Officers were told the man had a permit to carry and may be in possession of a handgun. Officers and Stearns County deputies arrived on scene and made contact with a woman at the front door. The woman stated the wanted party was indeed in the residence and she granted officers entry. Inside the home officers located the man. He was cooperative and complied with officers. The man was arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail where he was booked on the assault charge.

### Jan. 15

2:18 p.m. Verbal. 216 Riverside Ave. S. Officers were dispatched to O’Reilly Auto Parts for a report of two people screaming at each other in the parking lot. Officers arrived on scene and separated both parties. Through further investigation, officers discovered the pair were mother and daughter and the argument was due to the daughter being out past curfew the previous night. Both parties stated nothing physical had occurred. Officers educated the child on possible consequences if she continued to stay out past curfew and to disobey her mother.

### Jan. 16

5:03 p.m. Vehicle collision. CR 1 and CR 78. An officer was dispatched to a vehicle collision involving no injuries. The officer arrived on scene and met with both drivers and a witness. Vehicle one was westbound on CR 78 and had the right-of-way. Vehicle two failed to yield to vehicle one causing the crash. While speaking with the driver of vehicle two, an officer observed an odor of marijuana coming from his vehicle. Officers were given consent to search the vehicle and found a small baggie containing marijuana residue and an apple that was converted into a marijuana pipe. The driver was cited for possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to yield.

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## CITY OF SARTELL 2018 SARTELL SUMMARY BUDGET STATEMENT

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2018 budget information concerning the City of Sartell to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. 471.6965. This budget is a summary document only; the complete budget may be examined at Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N. The city council approved this budget on Dec. 11, 2018.

Table 1  
Governmental Funds 2018 Budget

	2017 Budget	2018 Budget
<b>Revenues:</b>		
Property Taxes	\$5,895,999	\$6,313,935
Tax Increments	\$151,500	\$155,500
All Other Taxes	\$1,220,906	\$1,296,821
Special Assessments	\$527,000	\$1,005,000
Licenses and Permits	\$1,177,700	\$1,176,500
Federal Grants	\$0	\$0
State General Purpose Aid (LGA, etc.)	\$146,895	\$211,458
State Categorical Aid (state aid for police, fire, streets)	\$331,088	\$333,025
Charges for Services	\$2,510,913	\$1,872,184
Fines and Forfeits	\$67,750	\$62,500
Interest on Investments	\$12,000	\$18,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$46,250	\$317,730
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$12,088,001</b>	<b>\$12,762,653</b>
Proceeds from Bond Sales	\$0	\$7,000,000
Other Financing Sources	\$0	\$0
Transfers from Other Funds (inc. enterprise funds)	\$8,235,812	\$6,173,592
<b>Total Revenues &amp; Other Financing Sources</b>	<b>\$20,323,813</b>	<b>\$25,936,245</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
General Government	\$834,343	\$896,051
Public Safety	\$3,181,600	\$3,455,889
Streets & Highways (Public Works)	\$1,128,185	\$1,191,660
Culture and Recreation	\$603,400	\$943,350
Urban & Economic Development	\$78,007	\$76,507
Miscellaneous Current Expenditures	\$34,500	\$33,000
<b>Total Current Expenditures</b>	<b>\$5,860,035</b>	<b>\$6,596,457</b>
Debt Service - Principal	\$5,205,000	\$5,625,000
Interest & Fiscal Charges	\$1,239,397	\$1,306,006
Capital Outlay	\$6,411,500	\$11,178,500
Transfers to Other Funds (inc. enterprise funds)	\$5,012,811	\$5,324,093
<b>Total Expenses &amp; Other Financing Uses</b>	<b>\$23,728,743</b>	<b>\$30,030,056</b>
<b>Increase/Decrease in Fund Balance</b>	<b>-\$3,404,930</b>	<b>-\$4,093,811</b>
<b>Property Tax Levy Requirement to fund this budget</b>	<b>\$5,895,999</b>	<b>\$6,313,935</b>

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## People

Six Sartell students have recently been named to the fall dean's list at Iowa State University in Ames. Students must have earned a minimum 3.5 grade-point average to achieve this honor. They are the following: **Taylor Buske**, pre-business; **Aaron McNabb Evans**, indus-

trial design; **James Frank**, chemical engineering; **Seth Jenkins**, architecture-professional degree; **Allison Fiedler Juntunen**, biology (AGLS); and **Austin Pietrowski**, mechanical engineering. **Olivia Dols**, Sartell, was recently named to the fall

dean's list at Crown College in St. Bonifacius. Students must earn a 3.5 minimum grade-point average to achieve this honor. **Joyce Platz**, Sartell, was recently named to the fall dean's list at Rochester Community and Technical College.

Students must achieve a 3.0 minimum grade-point average to achieve this honor. **Five Sartell students** recently graduated from North Dakota State University, Fargo. They and their degrees are as follows: **Andrew Arnold**,

bachelor's in finance; **Jared Forst**, bachelor's in mechanical engineering; **Trevor Grindland**, bachelor's with honors in mechanical engineering; **Jordan Roob**, master's in natural resources management; and **Chet Zapzalka**, bachelor's in natural resources management.



contributed photo

The SAYBA girls' seventh-grade Team Gack took home the third-place Honors of the SAYBA Winter Classic Basketball Tournament. Team members are the following (front row, left to right) Grace Schulte, Abby Haus, Lydia Holmgren and Kaia Gack; and (back row) Kayla Dougherty, Brenna McClure, Jocelyn Simones and Kloey Sand. Not pictured: Coaches Greg Gack and Lee McClure.



contributed photo

The Sartell Area Youth Basketball Association's boys' eighth-grade C basketball team won the consolation tournament bracket in the St. Cloud Winter Shootout held Jan. 6 at St. Cloud State University. The Sabres were victorious over teams from Willmar and Brainerd. Pictured (front row, left to right) are Tim Andrewson, Will Hoekstra, Dylan Welle and Mason Dulski; and (back row) Anthony Berndt, Dylan Zulkosky, Jason Hager and Jackson Vos.



contributed photo

Lt. Col. Jeff Howe completed nearly 40 years of combined military service in December with the Minnesota Army National Guard. At his retirement party, he was presented with the Legion of Merit. In addition to his military service, Howe has participated in the volunteer fire department and serves in the Minnesota House of Representatives from District 13A, which includes the St. Joseph and Cold Spring areas.



contributed photo

The Sartell Area Youth Basketball Association's seventh-grade boys' team took home the championship at the Rogers Royal Classic Basketball Tournament held Jan 6 and 7. Members included (front row, left to right) Cole Hentges, Grant Clark, Parker Knutson, Drew Geiger and Logan Legatt (back row) Caden Villarreal, Anthony Mahowald, Gavin Schulte, Andrew Rogers and Dylan Simones. With team work, hustle and Coach Mahowald's and Rogers' guidance, they clinched the championship.



contributed photo

Sartell's Peewee B1 hockey team is the champion of the 2018 Hermantown Peewee Tournament. They played a strong weekend tournament beating St. Louis Park 7-2, Hermantown 5-0, and the St. Paul Capitals 5-1 in the championship game. Team members include the following (front row, left to right) Jace Jansky, Aiden Woods, Gavin Welsh and Connor Anderson; (middle row) Carter Kubinski, Carter Bollinger and Dominic Ditlefsen; and (back row) Aanden VanDenBerg, Sam LeMieur, Rylan Schultz, Bennet Crane, Bailey Woods, Anna Lundeen and Nora Sauer. Coaches are Shawn Lundeen, JD Anderson, Matt Woods, Kent Sauer and Robbie Schultz.

# Hope

from front page

Cloud. Mathews is the city manager for Bemidji. He grew up in St. Cloud, attended St. Augustine's school and graduated from Cathedral High School. He met Anderson while he was attending John XXIII Middle School, and the two have been creating music together for 30 years. Mathews said he has played liturgical music all of his life. He graduated from St. John's University in Collegeville with a degree in English and a minor in piano performance. During college, he was involved in campus music ministry at the

College of St. Benedict. Mathews studied Suzuki piano with Terri Dulugosch of St. Augustine's Parish as a child and studied classical piano with Dr. Paul Wirth at the Central Minnesota School of Music in middle school and high school. He also studied classical piano with Dr. William Ibes of SJU. After graduation from the university, he worked at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis. as director of liturgical music for four years. Mathews earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and previously worked as the city administrator for the outstate Minnesota areas of Staples and Winnebago.

He currently accompanies liturgies at St. Phillip's Catholic Church in Bemidji. Mathews and his wife, Elizabeth, who have been married for 17 years, have three children. Anderson has performed many concerts in the St. Cloud area. Those have included benefit concerts for the Anna Marie Shelter and Cathedral High School. He was a featured singer during Cathedral's *Rock Around the Clock* fundraisers for the arts. Anderson also played the role of Jesus in the St. Cloud Theatre Group production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, appeared on numerous recordings sponsored through Together Encounter Christ, and won

first place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing in 1991. Anderson, a singer and songwriter, teamed up with Mathews in the early 1990s when Mathews was a student of his at Cathedral High School. Anderson said he wrote the music, but Mathews brought it to life with his piano music. Place of Hope Ministries in St. Cloud focuses on restoring and bringing hope to people who are struggling. Its ministry services include hospitality, meals, sheltering homeless residents, Sober Support, Hope for Veterans, teaching life skills, children's outreach, jail and prison outreach, developing orphanages in Africa and much more.

The mission of the St. Francis Xavier Social Justice Concerns Committee is to "foster education, prayer and action around various social justice concerns of the day and to reach out to the parish in various ways to build the reign of God in our midst." Molly Weyrens from Central Minnesota Catholic Worker said the group holds discussions about various topics, sponsors those who are homeless for a week each year and seeks to keep Catholic social teaching alive in the parish. Housing and hunger are the group's current issues. There is a nominal fee per person or a family group rate for the event.



# Sneaky disease almost kills Sartell baby

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

Most people, if they even hear of it, will dismiss from their minds National Kawasaki Disease Awareness Day, Jan. 26. Most have never heard of it.

Not the Stephen and Julie Muenchow family of Sartell. They hope people on that day and forever after will learn and remember what that disease is. Kawasaki can be deadly if it is not caught in time.

And they should know. Their baby, Gavin, had it when he was born May 5, 2016, but his parents didn’t know it, their doctors didn’t know it and nobody else had a clue. At least not at first. Gavin had symptoms that were puzzling but not necessarily alarming. He had a persistent fever, then he had what seemed like “pink eye” followed by a body rash and a swollen and reddish tongue.

The symptoms began appearing 12 days after Gavin was born. Eventually, medical experts put two and two together, they connected the dots and then they knew the baby’s symptoms spelled Kawasaki disease, named for the Japanese doctor who first described it in 1967.

It is also known as mucocutaneous lymph-node syndrome. What happens is that blood vessels throughout the body become in-

flamed, causing heart problems that can prove fatal to children unless the disease is treated in time.

The inflammation of blood vessels can weaken and destroy the heart, killing a child. It can be remarkably rapid if the disease is not recognized and treated in time. And time is the crucial word. If not treated in a very narrow window of opportunity, the disease almost certainly will be fatal. The cause of Kawasaki disease is, so far, unknown, although experts suspect a combination of genetic and environmental factors, perhaps complicated by auto-immune mechanisms that can trigger it. Airborne pathogens have also been suspected.

**No clue**

The Muenchow family had never heard of Kawasaki disease. When Gavin, their second boy, was born, they suspected nothing other than why his persistent fever just would not go away.

“His fever lasted day in, day out,” Julie Muenchow said. “It was so bad he finally had to go to Children’s Hospital (in the Twin Cities). Then there was his swollen red tongue, body rash, red eyes, inflammation.”

Fortunately, adding up the strange symptoms, doctors figured it out: Kawasaki disease.

Before the diagnosis, Julie and Stephen endured a roller-coaster ride

of awful emotions.

“It was terrifying,” Julie said. “The worst part was the not-knowing. Not knowing what was wrong. And no plan of action. All that was going on was treating symptoms after he was 6 weeks old.”

Kawasaki disease most often afflicts children ages 5 and under, with children between the ages of 2 and 4 being most common. It is most prevalent in Asian boys, but it can afflict girls, too, and children of any race.

**Cure**

Fortunately, an intravenous treatment saved Gavin’s life. An injection of immunoglobulin (a product of blood plasma) worked wonders for Gavin after only one infusion.

“In just 12 hours after the infusion, there was a big improvement in Gavin,” Julie said. “It was amazing. It was the final piece of the puzzle. We were told the intravenous treatment shocks the immune system from going into overdrive.”

The Muenchows, however, didn’t dwell on the medico-techno specifics. They were just so happy to have Gavin back, smiling, happy, healthy. And so was Gavin’s older brother, 5-year-old Owen. Young as he was, he was so worried about his younger brother, whom he called “My Baby.”

Owen instantly noticed how Gavin had come back healthier, happier.



contributed photo  
**Owen Muenchow (right) gives a kiss and a hug to brother Gavin shortly after Gavin’s health was restored. The brothers are inseparable buddies, especially after Gavin’s life was severely threatened by a mysterious disease.**

“Gavin is so happy-go-lucky now,” Julie said. “He’s ever so sweet. So healthy.”

A year after his diagnosis his heart looks just fine.

**Be vigilant**

The Muenchows are grateful for Kawasaki National Awareness Day, Jan. 26, because they want all parents to learn the symptoms of the disease: persistent fever, reddish eyes, swollen bright red tongue and body rashes.

The Muenchows are also firm believers in blood donation. It takes

about 1,000 individual blood donations to provide the plasma from which the immunoglobulin cells are derived and used for infusions that cure Kawasaki disease.

“Be persistent and trust your instincts,” Julie advised other parents. “What may seem very insignificant, like a rash, can be a very important clue. It’s important to write down symptoms when they happen so they can be put together like pieces in a puzzle if need be later.”

To learn more about Kawasaki disease, google Kawasaki Kids Foundation and/or Kawasaki Disease

## School

from front page

there have been no reported safety or security issues related to the project.

**Athletic complex fundraising**

Shawn Ogelsby, president of the Sartell Area Youth Soccer Association, and Kai Lewis, vice president of the Sartell Area Youth Football Association, made a presentation to the board on behalf of community fundraising for a community athletic complex they identified as a multi-sport stadium project.

It’s not just a stadium for football, but for many sports such as lacrosse, soccer and other sports as well, Lewis said. Part of the reason a stadium would be desirable is the increased number of players in these various sports. A stadium would include artificial turf.

Lewis and Ogelsby provided some rough cost estimates for the various aspects of the building project: \$750,000 for artificial turf, \$1.2 million for the stadium itself and \$750,000 for the track.

Funds would be raised in the community and by partnering with local businesses. Among the possible funders mentioned were Coborn’s, DeZurik and K & A Autobody.

According to Lewis and Ogelsby, there is a need for improved facilities and this would provide a possible savings in the long run considering maintenance and upkeep costs of

grass fields. Heavy use of grass fields often results in poor playing surfaces. Artificial surfaces last as long as 10 to 13 years with a minimal amount of maintenance.

Many of the surrounding communities – Sauk Centre, Monticello, Sauk Rapids, Alexandria, Buffalo and Brainerd – have invested in artificial-turf fields and in improved sports complexes. St. Cloud Tech and Apollo will probably be getting turf soon.

Several board members expressed concerns about funding the turf and complex.

“There has been considerable conversation about is turf necessary,” said Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert. “I would make the argument we should go with the grass-based field and the bleachers and the lights would help complement that.”

Board member Pam Raden expressed excitement over the possibility of the complex.

“One of the concerns I have is we asked the community for a really big gift to build the high school, and we may be asking for additional funds,” said board member Mary McCabe.

She went on to say it would not be a good idea to be in competition for the funds in the future.

“There is only a finite amount of money out there,” McCabe said. “I don’t want to put the board in the position of competing for dollars to finish up our (building) project. It’s important what we are doing in our project which is to build a school. We do have a phase two, and a phase three.”

She went on to say fundraising

for the project was a laudable effort, but expressed the need for caution in approaching the community because of the number of projects going on.

Schwiebert cautioned the board’s attentive listening to the presentation should not be construed as approval or a willingness to commit to the idea of turf or the stadium.

**School calendar**

The board tackled the issue of the school calendar and immediately hit a stumbling block when board member Lesa Kramer proposed accepting the 2018-2019 calendar, but tabling the 2019-2020 calendar.

Schwiebert told the board the issues in making a calendar were the issues that always seem to plague the process even though a 20-member committee helped create it. Of concern was whether to have a spring break; when should spring break occur; if spring break were eliminated, should long weekends or something along that line be introduced in its place; and where to provide professional development days. Also in the mix was concern for accommodating spring and winter sports scheduling.

“I believe we have to approve the 2018-2019 calendar because we have established a pattern,” Schwiebert said. “People are already expecting this for the 2018-2019 year and I don’t think we can make any changes to that.”

Schwiebert went on to explain a major change is going to occur in 2020-2021 and referred to it as “the great change” when kindergarten through eighth grade will be changed throughout the district.



photo by Dave DeMars  
**Kai Lewis advocates for improved sports facilities during the Jan. 22 school board meeting. With the increased participation and emphasis at all ages on sports such as lacrosse as well as standbys like football and soccer, there is a need for more and better athletic fields, Lewis said.**

Because of that change, Schwiebert thought that would be the ideal time to make changes to the 2019-2020 calendar.

“No matter what we do with the calendar, there will always be a sizable portion of your audience that doesn’t like what you have done,” Schwiebert said.

In the end, Kramer’s motion to approve the 2018-2019 calendar and table the 2019-2020 calendar passed with a 4-1 vote, with board member McCabe casting the no vote.

The approved 2018-2019 calendar provides for the start of school on Sept. 4, spring break from March 25-29, and the last day of school for students on May 31.

**Other business**

The board heard a brief presentation on the proposed decentralization of the media center in the new high school. Because of a shift in the

philosophy of how to accommodate better learning, the idea of having more immediacy of access to books and media space is the driving force.

“We want kids to be able to grab books where and when they need to grab them,” Schwiebert said.

That means making access to books and media available throughout the building and in the various learning areas rather than in a centralized repository as was the case for many years. The open design of the new school also facilitates this idea.

“Learning should be visible,” Principal Brenda Steve said. “We will see what our kids are doing.”

Steve also provided the board with curriculum and program changes for 2018-2019. Five new courses will be implemented including two courses in the business area, a new advanced music theory class, a class in government and one in robotics technology.



# Opinion

## Our View

### Fischbach's new role needs Constitutional solution

Constitutions are meant to be vague. Those documents are foundations for our state and national governments. They set down the basic principles and powers of our governments. The legislature, executive and courts decide the details.

That works fine until something odd happens.

Something odd has happened and it's time for an update to Minnesota's Constitution.

The chain of unusual events started when Sen. Al Franken resigned amid charges of sexual misconduct.

Minnesota's Democratic governor, Mark Dayton, appointed his lieutenant governor, Tina Smith, to replace him.

That move sent both political parties to their law books and copies of the Minnesota Constitution that calls for the president of the Senate to become lieutenant governor.

The current Senate president is Republican Michelle Fischbach, who represents the St. Joseph and Sartell-St. Stephen areas in District 13.

Fischbach and Republicans argue she can do both jobs. DFLers say the Constitution prohibits her from holding both offices and they want her to resign her Senate seat. A Ramsey County judge will decide the matter after a Democrat in District 13 filed a lawsuit.

The Constitution says "No senator or representative shall hold any other office under the authority of the United States or the state of Minnesota, except that of postmaster or of notary public. If elected or appointed to another office, a legislator may resign from the legislature by tendering his resignation to the governor." The words "shall" and "may" provide room for dispute.

There are practical and political arguments on both sides.

First the practical. Fischbach's claim she can do both jobs makes sense. This is a short legislative session focused on bonding, Fischbach is an experienced legislator and Dayton and his lieutenant governor won't be running for re-election. Fischbach's seat isn't open until 2020. If Fischbach resigns her Senate seat, the governor would call a special election to fill it. She has offered to collect only her Senate pay.

The real battle hangs on the political issues because the Republicans could lose control of the Senate. They hold a narrow 34- to 32-seat advantage. If a DFLer wins a special election to replace Dan Schoen (a Democrat) who resigned after sexual harassment claims, then the Senate would be split 34-33. If the DFL wins the lieutenant governor case in court, the split would be 33-33 pending an election to replace Fischbach.

The courts may end up deciding the issue. A permanent solution would be to amend the state Constitution so the governor can appoint a new lieutenant governor to be confirmed by the Senate.

In 1857 when the Constitution was written, there was so much discord Democrats wouldn't sign a document with Republican signatures and Republicans wouldn't sign a document bearing the signatures of Democrats.

There is evidence both documents were presented to Congress when it approved Minnesota's Constitution and the state was admitted to the Union on May 11, 1858.

Now 160 years later, the tradition of discord continues.

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## Newsleaders

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Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, MN 56374. 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.

## White-nationalist group puts up poster ignorance

Dennis Dalman

Editor



demonstrations there in which a racist murderer slammed his car into a group of people, killing a young woman.

Some of the blunt poster sentences are these:

"We have a right to exist."

"You will not replace us."

"It's okay to be white."

"There are 2 genders."

"Hate speech is free speech."

Then there is a preposterous sentence, which is not really a sentence. Typically, white nationalists are not very well educated, in grammar or anything else for that matter.

The wannabe sentence states: "You expect to be sheltered from ideas that challenge your narrow world view, well prepare to be triggered."

Here we have a group of people who are anti-black, anti-immigrant, anti-Jewish, anti-LGBTQ, and this group is telling the rest of us that we are "sheltered from ideas," that we have a "narrow world view." It's

almost funny because look who's talking. The words warn us that we will be "triggered." (no doubt a veiled threat of being shot). Or do they mean to gas us all?

Why do those people feel so insecure? Why do they feel so threatened by diversity, by people whose skin happens to be darker than theirs? Why do they wrap themselves in such hatreds? Is there anything they do like, besides themselves? Why can't they welcome the diversity that is an underlying strength of America and always has been.

Ray Sjogren, a St. Joseph resident, took it upon himself to take down the posters, as did St. Joseph police because putting posters on telephone poles is not allowed.

"If we're silent then we're complicit," Sjogren said.

Yes, complacent and complicit.

Thank you, Mr. Sjogren; thank you, police officers.

Let's all speak up against the neo-Nazi garbage.

A good way to counter that crap is to donate to UniteCloud, a website started by Natalie Ringsmuth of Waite Park that promotes kindness, understanding, diversity and equality among all the good people who live and work here.

## Know the facts on government shutdown

Connor Kockler

Guest Writer



leadership. They control all the levers of government, so the shutdown is entirely their fault right? Well, it's not quite that simple. While the House can pass appropriations bills by a simple majority, which it did the preceding Thursday, in the Senate they require 60 votes. The Republicans hold only 51 Senate seats, which means nine Democrats were needed to keep the government running.

So what was the holdup? The answer is a program called DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Under this program created by President Obama in 2012, around 800,000 illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as children were protected from deportation. In September 2017, President Trump rescinded the program and gave Congress until March 5, 2018, to send him a bill concerning it before it expired. Democrats want language about DACA included in the government funding, while Republicans and Trump want DACA to be part of a wider immigration deal including money for a wall and other immigration measures.

In the Senate, 45 Republicans and 5 Democrats voted to continue to fund the government, while 44 Democrats and 5 Republicans voted against the resolution. By

percentages, this means almost 90 percent of the 51 Republican senators voted against the shutdown, while the opposite is true for 90 percent of the 49 Democratic senators. Whether or not you believe the Republicans should have caved to Democratic demands, Democrats are mathematically responsible for the shutdown.

This was a similar pattern to 2013, when the vast majority of Republicans voted to shut down the federal government over Obamacare. They were rightly blamed then because the math worked the same way. The Democrats have now committed the identical action here in 2018.

Of course, when legislative bickering like this happens, we all lose. I would have hoped to see some sort of bipartisan deal, but politicians in Washington seem to be more interested in making stands on their favorite issues rather than working for the common benefit of the American people.

If we want to keep things like this from continuing to occur, we as citizens need to remain vigilant and hold our lawmakers accountable. We need to follow the news and events and see which politicians are working for us, and which are working for their political party. Keeping a close eye on things, and voting out those in Congress who aren't doing their jobs, is the only way to have the functioning government we deserve.

Connor Kockler is a Sauk Rapids-Rice High School student. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.







# Text

## from front page

Burke said she estimates nearly a dozen of the state's 87 counties have the necessary infrastructure to support text-to-911 calls. Most of the systems are concentrated down in the Twin Cities metro area. But Burke said each multi-county region has at least one text-to-911 equipped facility.

Lieser anticipates Stearns County to receive the necessary technology during the first half of 2018.

However, while each region is able to handle texting, Hughes said text-to-911 should be a last resort for many.

"If you can make the call, make the call," he said. "Don't text."

Hughes said, one of the major disadvantages to texting an emergency to 911 instead of making a voice call is texting does not provide an accurate location for the emergency.

"When you call, we can often pinpoint your location much faster," he said. "And often times the dispatchers are able to pick up on cues from background noises or the inflection in your voice as to what is going on in that situation."

DPS says text-to-911 has the same 160-character limit as typical texts and could potentially bounce

back if the texter is roaming. In addition, there is currently no language translation service for 911 texts.

Text-to-911 calls have often taken longer than traditional voice calls, Burke said.

"You are going to get a better response (with a voice call)," she said. "And especially now, you won't have to deal with a relay from county to county. But if you have a hearing-impaired person or someone who cannot speak, it's obviously going to be better for them to text, but we would always prefer a voice call if (you are) able."

Lieser said examples of appropriate uses for the text-to-911 call would be in situations where a person could jeopardize their safety by calling.

"(One) actual call has been a domestic," she said. "And those are the times you want to use it. When you don't want someone else to know you are making that phone call."

Another example, Burke said, was if the caller was inside a vehicle being driven by someone under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

"If you feel like your safety might be jeopardized because you are making that call, then that would be a good reason (to text)," she said.

Burke said in states where text-to-911 has been active, voice call-

ing still is the preferred method of communication with law enforcement.

"Studies about this have shown when people are encountering an emergency they would rather make a voice call than stop and text," she said. "Because you feel like you are getting more of an immediate response."

For those situations where texting is the best option, DPS recommends texting the exact address and type of emergency into the message field using simple wording and avoiding abbreviations, emojis and pictures. Questions from the dispatcher should be answered promptly.

"The physical act of texting 911 is not that difficult, but it's important people follow these steps and provide us with the most accurate information," said Darlene Pankonie, chair of the Next Generation 911 Committee. "If there's a delay in answering a dispatcher's questions, or if you don't tell us where you are, we can't help you. This will lead to valuable time lost in an emergency and take dispatchers away from other calls."

Text-to-911 provides the public with another option when it comes to reporting emergency situations to law enforcement. And for Lieser, that is a good thing.

"It just gives the public another tool," she said. "And if we can help somebody by that text, then texting is worth it."

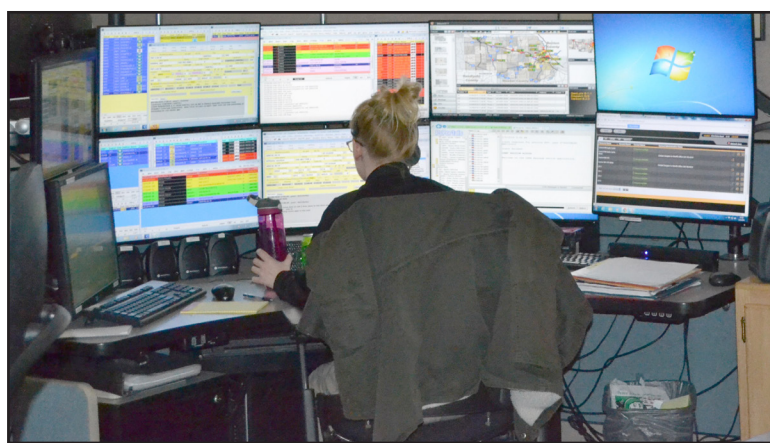


photo by Vicki Ikeogu

Text-to-911 is still in the early stages throughout the state. Many dispatch centers, such as the Stearns County Dispatch Center in St. Cloud, do not have the appropriate infrastructure to receive texts. Text-to-911 service calls are currently funneled through Mille Lacs County.

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