

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Sept. 7, 2018
Volume 23, Issue 28
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Last chance to register for SAYBA basketball

Reminder: Absolute last date to register for the 2018-19 SAYBA travel basketball season is Saturday, Sept. 15. No late registrations accepted. Register online at saybabball.org.

Market Monday open until Oct. 15

Sartell Market Monday is open through Monday, Oct. 15. Summer vegetables are still going strong and the winter squash and apples have arrived. Always available are baked goods, eggs, meat and much more. We are located in the Coborn's parking lot on South Pinecone Road from 3-6 p.m. on Mondays.

'Think We are Divided Now? A Look Back at 1968'

The Sartell Senior Connection will host "Think We are Divided Now? A Look Back at 1968" with St. John's University Professor Ken Jones from 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 11 at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. In 1968, a half million American servicemen were fighting a war that was losing public support. An unlikely U.S. Senator from Minnesota (and St. John's University) challenged the sitting President of his own party, a move that would lead to the President deciding not to run for re-election. Two men who stood for peace and an inclusive society were assassinated. Riots engulfed the nation, and led to violent reprisals. Join us for the discussion as we try to use the past to get some perspective on the present.

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This summer, The Newsleaders began testing providing daily news. We are excited to say our tests were successful and we are ready for prime time! For \$5 a month, or \$50 a year, you can subscribe to thenewsleaders.com and access daily news, exclusive stories and download digital copies of The Newsleaders.

INSERTS:
Batteries Plus
City of St. Stephen
Woodcrest
of Country Manor

*Stories only on
thenewsleaders.com*

- St. Stephen Parish Festival photo gallery
- Sartell bridge repair work begins Tuesday

Council approves prelim budget, levy

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A preliminary 2019 budget and levy that could raise city property taxes by 1.16 percent was approved unanimously by the Sartell City Council at its last meeting.

The preliminary levy is the maximum amount the city can levy. The council, however, can decrease that amount, and its departments will continue to look for expenses that could be trimmed or cut before a final budget/levy is adopted.

The city is projecting a more or less "flat" tax rate in the coming year, which meets the council's goal of long-term stable tax rates. Currently, the tax rate in Sartell is the lowest of the cities in the greater St. Cloud area, and Sartell has re-

ceived high praise from accountants for keeping its budget and taxes so relatively low.

The preliminary general fund budget for 2019 is \$7,270,350. The tax levy for that general fund is \$5,366,544, but the total preliminary levy is actually \$6,767,127 because, in addition to the general fund, tax revenue must be received to cover the following: ice arena abatement amount (\$11,234), streets abatement (\$440,000), 2007 debt service (\$315,434), 2009 debt service (\$215,000) and public facility project Phase I (\$418,915).

The portion of the city's budget not funded by taxes is covered by other sources of income, such as fees, state and federal aid. It is estimated Sartell will receive about

Council • page 2

School accountability scores bring good news for Sartell

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

As students head back to school this week, teachers and administrators received their own report cards on student performance.

The state Department of Education released the latest performance scores based on five indicators – achievement and progress on state reading and math tests over time, progress toward English language

proficiency, graduation rates and consistent attendance.

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

For the Sartell-St. Stephen school district there was good news.

Two Sartell schools were recognized for performing with the highest 5 percent of schools in the state in specific categories.

Pine Meadow Elementary School was recognized for

A labor of fun



photo by Dennis Dalman

A kid slides happily down a bounce castle at the St. Stephen Catholic Labor Day Festival Sept. 3. A huge crowd of people attended the always-popular annual event for fun, games, food, music and an auction. See page 6 for another photo.

overall math progress and for math progress achieved by students receiving free or reduced lunches.

Sartell Middle School was recognized for math progress made by Asian and multiracial student groups and for reading progress made by Hispanic, black and multiracial student groups.

The new accountability system, called North Star, expands accountability from standardized test scores to include more indicators and

provides support to help schools improve.

The North Star system includes three main areas: publicly reporting data, recognizing schools for success and identifying schools for support.

School districts receive feedback for the five categories of accountability: academic achievement, academic progress, English language proficiency, attendance rates and graduation rates.

School • page 5

Task force fights trafficking of drugs, sex



photo by Dennis Dalman

Senior citizens line up for a picnic lunch Aug. 23 during the Cookout With Cops event in Sartell. Now in its 10th year, the police-sponsored event attracted more than 250 people.

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The good news is that meth labs in Central Minnesota are now rarities, but the bad news is that meth and heroin continue to be "drugs of choice" for all too many "recreational" users, who can quickly become addicts.

That's according to John Lester, who spoke at the 10th annual "Cookout with Cops" Aug. 23 at the St. Francis Xavier Gathering Place. Lester, who is a member of the Central Minnesota Violent Offenders Task Force, is among several who spoke to an audience of nearly 300 people who attended the picnic dinner host-

ed free for senior citizens by the Sartell Police Department. Other speakers were a member of Gold Cross Ambulance and a K-9 police officer from St. Cloud.

The following story is based on Lester's comments at Cookout with Cops and a follow-up interview with Lester by the Sartell Newsleader.

Meth labs, which used to be found frequently by law enforcement, are practically a thing of the past, but – again – the bad news is meth is readily available from distributors in other cities and/or other countries, such as meth smuggled into the United States by members of drug cartels in

Cops • page 7

Community Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374; fax it to 320-363-4195; 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.

Friday, Sept. 7
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Saturday, Sept. 8
Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk, 9 a.m.-noon, Building 92, St. Cloud VA Health Care System. 4801 Veterans Drive. St. Cloud.

Youth football camp, 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Winners Bar and Grill, 311 Second St. S. Call 218-831-1400 to register for youth football camps.

Monday, Sept. 10
Lunch and cards, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-3 p.m., Rusty Nail, 4 CR 2 S., St. Stephen.

Market Monday, 3-6: p.m., parking lot of Coborn’s Market Place, 1725 Pinecone Road S., Sartell, marketmon-day.org.

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

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

Central Minnesota Market, 3-5:30 p.m., VA Hospital, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-251-2498.
“**Florida and the Civil War**,” 3

p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. Dave Page will kick off the 2018-19 season of the Central Minnesota Civil War Roundtable.

A Look Back at 1968, 6:30-8 p.m., Sartell Community Center. Presented by St. John’s University history professor Ken Jones.

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

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

National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101.

Wednesday, Sept. 12
Free immigration services, 9 a.m.-noon, Community Outpost, 600 13th St. S., St. Cloud.

“**The Business of Horsing Around**,” 9 a.m., Breakfast Club at Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. The speaker is Teresa Cotton Johnson, owner and operator of Fieldstone Farm in St. Joseph.

Thursday, Sept. 13
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Tour Chateur Waters.

Nordic walking, 9:30 a.m., meet at the granite fountain at Lake George in St. Cloud. Call Linda at 952-475-0891.

Sartell-St. Stephen school district levy meeting, 9 a.m., Senior’s Coffee and Conversation at Sartell Community Center.

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

Family Farmers’ Market, 2-6 p.m., River East parking lot, CentraCare Health Plaza, 1900 CentraCare Circle, St. Cloud. 320-252-2422.

Sauk Rapids Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Coborn’s parking lot, 110 First St. S., Sauk Rapids.

New Sartell high school tour, 6 p.m., park in the Oak Ridge Elementary School parking lot. Tour limited to adults.

“**Blue Mass**,” to honor first responders and other emergency personnel, 7 p.m., St. Mary’s Cathedral, 25 Eighth Ave., S., St. Cloud. Bishop Donald Kettler will celebrate the Mass.

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

Friday, Sept. 14
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Experience Trucking, 1-7 p.m., Brenny Trucking, 8505 Ridgewood Road St. Joseph. Open house features free food, prizes and instruction on operating cars safely around trucks. brennytransportation.com/experiencetrucking.

Saturday, Sept. 15
Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

Sunday, Sept. 16
Senate District 13 and House District 13A meet the candidates. 2-4:30 p.m., St. Boniface Church, Cold Spring.

Quarry Park Interpretive Session, Cacti of the North, 5 p.m., meet at the Quarry Park information kiosk, 1802 CR 137, Waite Park. Advanced registration and parking pass required. Contact the park office, 320-255-6172.

Monday, Sept. 17
Lunch and cards, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-3 p.m., Rusty Nail, 4 CR 2 S., St. Stephen.
St. Cloud Area Parkinson’s Dis-

ease Support Group, 1-2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids.

Market Monday, 3-6: p.m., parking lot of Coborn’s Market Place, 1725 Pinecone Road S., Sartell, marketmon-day.org.

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

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

Tuesday, Sept. 18
Memory Writers group develops topics and turn in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.

Community Lunch and Entertainment, sponsored by Helping Hands Outreach, noon-2 p.m., St. Stephen Parish Hall, 103 CR 2 S. 320-746-9960.

Central Minnesota Market, 3-5:30 p.m., VA Hospital, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-251-2498.

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

Wednesday, Sept. 19
Free immigration services, 9 a.m.-noon, Discovery Community School, 700 Seventh St. S., Waite Park.

SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S., Sartell.
Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.

Thursday, Sept. 20
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.
Nordic walking, 9:30 a.m., meet at the granite fountain at Lake George in St. Cloud. Call Linda at 952-475-0891.

Sauk Rapids Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Coborn’s parking lot, 110 First St. S., Sauk Rapids.

New Sartell high school tour, 6 p.m., park in the Oak Ridge Elementary School parking lot. Tour limited to adults.

American Legion-Sartell, open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Liquid Assets, 1091 Second St. S. #600, Sartell. john.denney@charter.net.

Friday, Sept. 21
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

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

Saturday, Sept. 22
Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell.

Sartell High School 20th reunion, 7 p.m., Molitor’s Quarry. Free. Live music 7-9 p.m. Bryan Sternberg, 651-353-6358 or bryancsternberg@gmail.com.

Sunday, Sept. 23
Quarry Park Interpretive Session, Birding with a Smartphone, 5 p.m., meet at the Quarry Park information kiosk, 1802 CR 137, Waite Park. Advanced registration and parking pass required. Contact the park office, 320-255-6172.

Council

from front page

\$214,000 in local government aid from the state in 2019, although that amount is not yet “set in stone,” as was noted at the council meeting.

Major items in the 2019 budget include the East Sartell Street Reconstruction Project and the new Public-Safety Facilities Project planned for 2019. The latter is the construction of a police station/fire hall.

Tax notices will be sent to every property owner in Sartell sometime in November. At that time, residents can see the impact of taxes for each governmental unit. A public tax hearing will take place starting at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, at Sartell City Hall so that council members can hear input from residents. Sometime thereafter, the council will consider approving a final budget-and-levy amount.

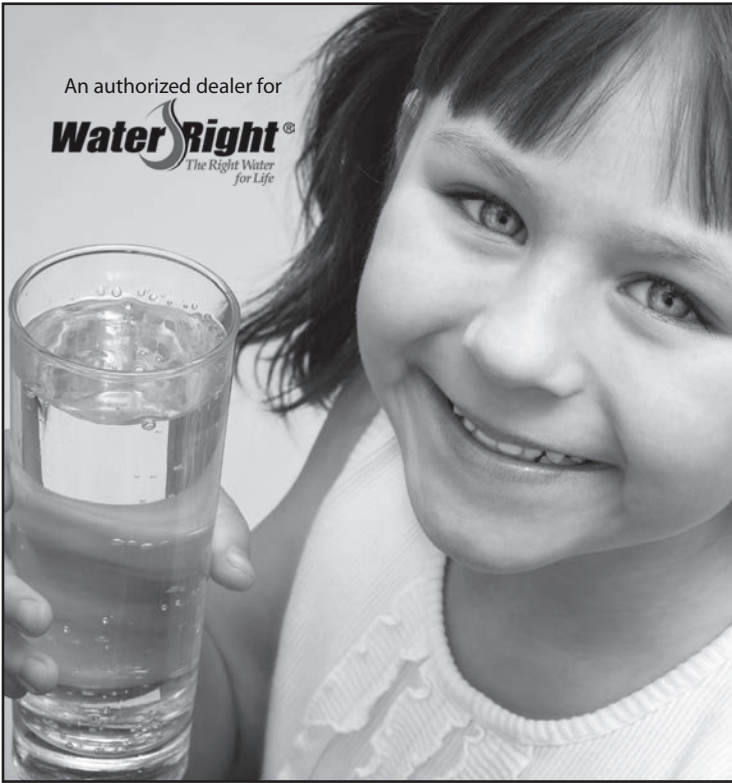
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Newsleader staff members have the responsibility to report news fairly and accurately and are accountable to the public. Readers who feel we’ve fallen short of these standards are urged to call the Newsleader office at 320-363-7741. If matters cannot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

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

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Obituary

Scott Michael Raden, 54

Sartell

March 1, 1939-Sept. 2, 2018

Scott Michael Raden, 54, of Sartell, died peacefully Sept. 2 with family at his side. A His funeral was held Sept. 7 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell. The Rev. Timothy Baltes officiated. Private burial took place in the Akeley (Minn.) Cemetery.

Raden was born May 28, 1964 in St. Cloud to Tom and Dannielle (Cundy) Raden. He was a 1982 graduate of Apollo High School, and then completed his marketing degree at St. Cloud Technical College. In 1985, he became marketing director at Crossroads Mall in St. Cloud, and stayed in that position for seven plus years.

On Oct. 12, 1990, Raden married Pamela Ann (Miller)

Raden at St Paul’s Catholic Church in St Cloud. In 1992, He joined the marketing team at The Johnson Group marketing firm in St Cloud, eventually taking over ownership of the firm with Pam in December of 1995.

Raden was an amazing man who loved spending his time with his family and friends. He enjoyed traveling the world with Pam, Tianna and TJ, as well as his annual January golf trip with his buddies. He was a sports enthusiast, with a wide variety of interests, including coaching football, baseball, basketball and softball teams for his children as they grew. He was also an active participant in softball and volleyball leagues throughout the Central Minne-



sota area.

Above all else, Raden’s love of golf was woven throughout his entire life. He played with many friends and family, at hundreds of courses all over the world, and leaves a legacy that will never be separated from the game. His greatest joy was to be able to live and play the game through his son, TJ.

Survivors include his wife Pam, children Tianna and TJ, mother Dannielle Bunting, siblings Dan (Mary Jo) Raden, Chris Raden, Nicole Bunting, Carrie (Steve) Rugg and Chad (Ian) Raden, step-mother Marjorie Raden, eight nieces and nephews and one great-nephew.

Preceding him in death was his father Tom and maternal and paternal grandparents.

Memorials are preferred in lieu of flowers to be used in a donation in his name.

People

Bridget Maas, daughter of Madonna and Kevin Maas of Sartell, was recently named to the spring dean’s list at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia. She is double majoring in economics and Spanish.

Melissa Maas, daughter of Madonna and Kevin Maas of Sartell, was recently named to the spring dean’s list at Loyola University in Chicago. She is majoring in biochemistry.

Erik Maas, son of Madonna and Kevin Maas of Sartell, was recently named to the spring dean’s list at the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering at Arizona State University in Tempe. Students must attain a 3.5 or higher grade-point average to qualify for this honor.

Lonnie Heaton of St. Cloud shot a hole-in-one on the 123-yard Hole 6 at Pine Ridge Golf Course on July 28.

Council rejects street name request

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

A request by a company in Sartell to have an avenue named after itself was nixed by the Sartell City Council at its last meeting.

The roadway going past the building into which CH Robinson is relocating is now designated as Medical Arts Avenue S. The avenue and the company are located in Sartell’s medical-campus area near Connecticut Avenue. The request was for the avenue to be re-designated as “Robinson Way.” CH Robinson is a cargo and freight company.

Requests for street-name changes are “not terribly uncommon” in the city, said Sartell Planner/Developer Anita Archambeau.

A consensus of the city council was that changing names of street signs is not a good idea because it could set a precedent for a series of name and street changes that could cause hassles for mapmakers and others – perhaps even 911 dispatch functions. It was also noted that many street signs in Sartell are named after individuals or families that have passed on or moved from the city. Again, there was a council consensus that such signs should remain as they are even if people no longer know to whom the signs refer.

The street sign request was voted down 4-0. Council member Ryan Fitzthum recused himself from the vote because he is employed by CH Robinson.

CRAFT-VENDOR SALES

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

Sunday, Sept. 9
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

ONE-DAY ESTATE GARAGE SALE!

Saturday, Sept. 8
8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

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Sundays: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:40 a.m.

Summer Worship Schedule:
Sundays: 9:00 a.m.

WoW! Worship on Wednesday:
5:30 p.m. Intergenerational Meal
6:30 p.m. Informal Worship
One Reading, A couple songs, A lot of God!

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL DISTRICT 748 SECTION 00 11 13 - CALL FOR BIDS

The Administration recommends the Board of Education authorize a Call for Bids for Sartell-St. Stephen New High School Bid Package 3. Sartell-St. Stephen School District will receive sealed bids at the district office at 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, 2018. Plans will be available on or after Aug. 30, 2018. Contact the offices of Bradbury Stamm Construction Winkelman LLC for access, 320-253-2411.

Types of bidding may include but are not limited to: Accessories: Visual Display Boards, Cubicles

Publish: Sept. 7, 2018

Sidewalk to be installed on east side

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

A sidewalk will be constructed starting at the east side of the Sartell bridge at the newly reconstructed intersection of CR 29 and CR 33.

The Sartell City Council at its last meeting gave unanimous approval for the sidewalk, with a cost not to exceed \$15,000. Benton County has been working all summer on road-and-utility improvements on Sartell’s east side, but the county informed the city it would not install a sidewalk in that area, that it would have to be a city project.

The sidewalk will start on the southwest side of that busy intersection and proceed south for a couple of blocks where it will connect to a current biking-hiking path along Benton Drive S.

The council members agreed even though they don’t often see pedestrians in that area near the intersection, there are some people who walk that way. They agreed public safety is paramount, even if it means that area is not heavily used by walkers or bikers.

The cost estimate for the project is anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000, the council was told.

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(formerly Index 53)

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FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE (beginning Sept. 8/9)

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

YOUTH EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday School JAM (Jesus And Me) JAMZone - Wednesday Evenings
Sunday Mornings Grades 1 & 2
Ages 3 years - 2nd grade GodZone - Wednesday Evenings
Grades 3 & 4

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

JOIN US FOR OUR FALL KICKOFF CELEBRATION!

Sunday, Sept. 9 at 11:30 a.m.

BBQ cookout, bounce houses, human foosball,
God's Work Our Hands -Dedicated day of serving, special music and more!

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Blotter

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

Aug. 25
9:15 p.m. Assault. Seventh Street N. Officers were dispatched for a man who had been shot by a paintball gun from the window of a moving truck. The man told the officers the last known direction the truck traveled. The officer located the truck and the paintball guns. Officer cited the suspect and seized the paintball guns.

Aug. 26
3:14 a.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Ave N. An officer pulled over a vehicle for failing to dim their high beams. Officer spoke with the driver's father and advised him. Driver was on her way home. Officer issued a verbal warning.

Aug. 27
8 p.m. Medical. CR 120. Officer dispatched to a possible broken leg.

Caller stated he felt he had broken a pin in his leg. Officers saw the complainant sitting in a chair being tended by paramedics. The individual did not have a broken leg but admitted to using heroin four hours earlier. Individual was taken by paramedics to St. Cloud Hospital for medical evaluation.

Aug. 28
2:30 a.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue S. An officer observed a vehicle traveling on Riverside Avenue and noticed the vehicle drift over the fog line several times. The officer stopped the vehicle. Before speaking with the driver, the officer ran the license on the vehicle and discovered the registered owner had a warrant for his arrest. Officer then made contact with the driver, advising him he made the stop based on the driving conduct. The driver identified himself as the registered owner of the vehicle and was told about his warrant. Driver stated he did not know about the warrant. The driver was arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail.

Aug. 29
7:45 p.m. Child locked in vehicle. Riverside Avenue S.. Officers were dispatched to a child locked in a vehicle. The keys to the vehicle were locked in the vehicle as well. Officers were able to gain entry into the vehicle and reunite the child with the parent.

Aug. 30
11 a.m. Suspicious activity. Second Street S. Officers on patrol noticed a vehicle backed against a wooded area. Officer investigated and talked with the owner of the property who was disposing of grass clippings from the front of his property.

Aug. 31
9:50 p.m. Stolen vehicle. CR 1. Officers noticed an individual on a motorcycle who appeared to have

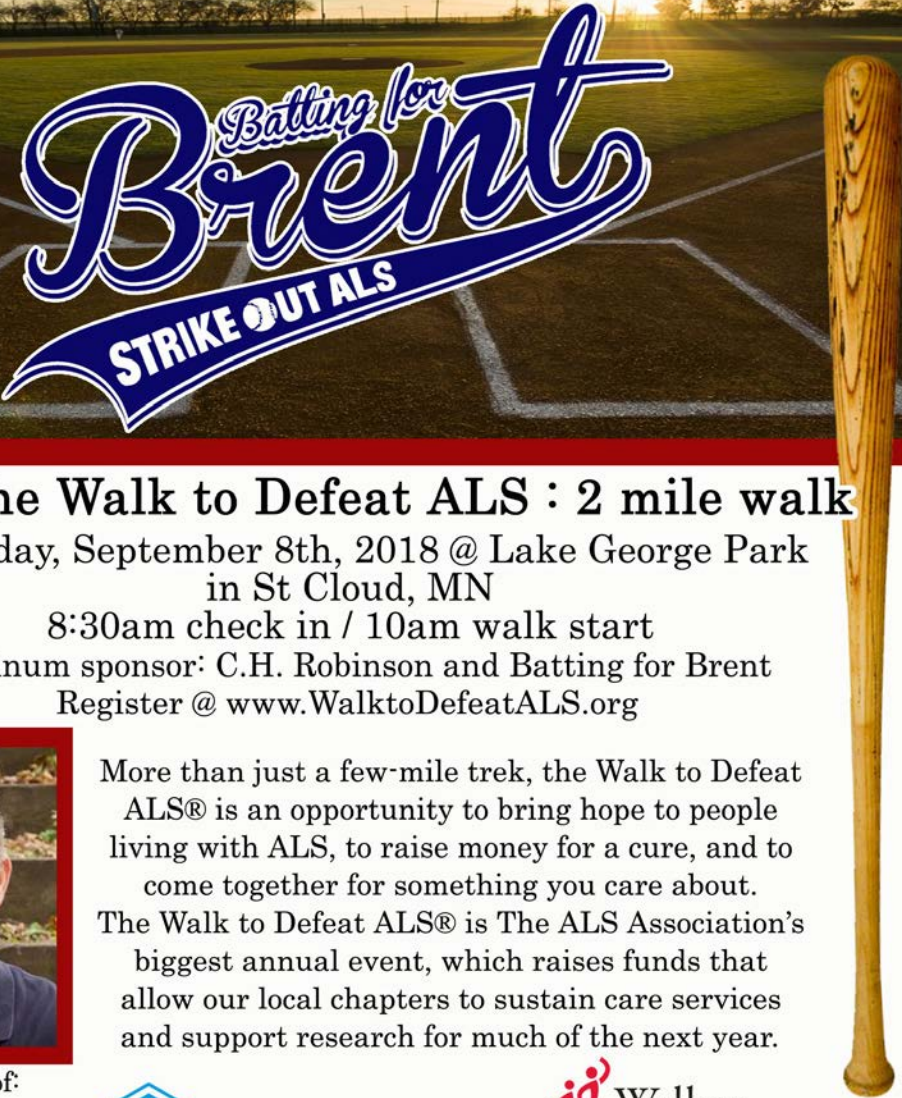
difficulty operating the vehicle. Officers witnessed the individual leave the motorcycle on the side of the road entering another vehicle. Running the license plate, the motorcycle was discovered to be reported stolen from St. Cloud. Officer impounded the vehicle and notified the owner, who picked up the vehicle from Sartell police.

Sept. 1
2:30 p.m. Intoxicated person. Pinecone Road. Officers received a call that an individual was lying in front of a business in the grass. The individual was confused and disoriented. The individual was in possession of a liquor bottle. An ambulance responded and transported the individual to St. Cloud Hospital.

Sept. 2
7:45 p.m. Medical. Victory Avenue. Officer was dispatched for an individual possibly having a heart attack. Officer arrived on scene and helped medical personnel load the individual into the ambulance. The individual was transported to St. Cloud Hospital.


Sept. 3
2:55 p.m. Fraud. CR 120. Officers were dispatched to a business to investigate a fraud complaint. An individual left his debit card when making a transaction. The complainant said multiple unauthorized purchases were made after his card went missing. Officers reviewed footage and have the image of the person making the purchases.

Sept. 4
7:30 a.m. Warrant. 27th Street N. While on patrol, an officer observed a listed vehicle. Officer talked with driver who identified himself. Officer confirmed a warrant on the individual. Officer took individual in custody and transported him to Stearns County Jail.




Join the Walk to Defeat ALS : 2 mile walk

Saturday, September 8th, 2018 @ Lake George Park in St Cloud, MN
8:30am check in / 10am walk start
Platinum sponsor: C.H. Robinson and Batting for Brent
Register @ www.WalktoDefeatALS.org

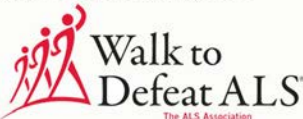


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School

from front page

In several categories, the Sartell-St. Stephen district exceeded the state average. In reading achievement, Sartell students scored 73.10 percent compared with a 59.24 percent statewide average. In math achievement, Sartell students scored 76.08 percent compared with 57.54 percent statewide. Achievement scores are calculated by the number of students who meet or exceed standards divided by the number of all students tested.

Sartell students’ yearly progress in math and reading also exceeded the statewide average. In reading, Sartell scored 2.56 compared with 2.39 statewide and in math, Sartell scored 2.53 compared with 2.13 statewide.

Students attended 91 percent of days compared with 86.27 percent statewide. Sartell’s four-year graduate rate of 97.91 percent topped the state level of 82.42 percent.

Sartell-St. Stephen fell below the statewide score for English language learners’ growth toward meeting individual performance targets. Sartell scored 52.5 compared with 66.99 across the state.

“We have a tradition of excellence in our school district and the fact our students continue to perform above state averages is a point of pride. These results provide a snapshot of our curricular program and provide an opportunity for us to review and refine our instructional practices and school expectations,” said Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent of the Sartell-St. Stephen school district in a statement accompanying the data.

Here are some additional scores for specific schools:

Pine Meadow Elementary School

Percent of students meeting or exceeding standards for academic achievement (statewide score is in parenthesis).

Reading	74.9 percent	(59.2 percent).
Math	80.2 percent	(56.2 percent).

Percent of students who have improved or maintained academic progress (statewide score in parenthesis).

Reading	22.5 percent improved,	62.0 percent maintained	(19.5 percent improved, 48.5 maintained).
Math	17.1 percent improved,	71.3 percent	

maintained (14 percent improved, 50.9 percent maintained)

Oak Ridge Elementary School

Percent of students meeting or exceeding standards for academic achievement.

Reading	73.0 percent.
Math	82.3 percent.

Percent of students who have improved or maintained academic progress.

Reading	25.3 percent improved,	52.7 percent maintained.
Math	27.8 percent improved,	58.3 percent maintained.

Sartell Middle School

Percent of students meeting or exceeding standards for academic

achievement.

Reading	74.2 percent.
Math	75.4 percent.

Percent of students who have improved or maintained academic progress.

Reading	17.1 percent improved,	59.3 percent maintained.
Math	15.6 percent improved,	65.9 maintained.

Sartell High School

Percent of students meeting or exceeding standards for academic achievement.

Reading	69.7 percent.
Math	72.3 percent.

Parents and community members can review North Star data online for schools and districts by visiting the Minnesota Report Card. Visitors to the site will find information about

schools recognized for excellence or prioritized for support, and learn what factors led to their identifications. The report card provides information about a school’s overall performance, and options

to look closer at the data to identify areas for improvement or areas of success. School officials suggest parents who have questions should contact their school or district office.

2018

Frantober Fest

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Saturday, September 22 -

8:30 am Franny Flyer Kids 1k Fun Run

9:00 am Franny Flyer 5k/10k Walk/Run

4:00 pm Mass followed by activities till 9:00 pm

Door Prize drawing for cash at 9:00 pm—must be present to win!

Sunday September 23 -

8:30 - Noon - Dad's Belgian Waffle Breakfast

12 Noon - Grand Raffle /Cash Prize Drawing

12 Noon- Silent Auction Closes

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Impromptu pint-sized drum corps



photo by Dennis Dalman

Three siblings use sticks to clank out a rhythm on empty jars bought by their parents at the St. Stephen Catholic Parish Labor Day Fest. The children are (left to right) Brad, Lucy and Joe. They are the children of Amanda and Patrick Schulte of Avon.

Rejection of bids delays Celebration drainage project

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

All three bids for a proposed drainage-improvement project for the Celebration neighborhood of Sartell were rejected by the Sartell City Council at its last meeting, and the project will be up for bids once again.

The council rejected the bids unanimously on a 5-0 vote.

The reason for the rejection is that the bids had come in substantially in excess of the engineering estimate for the project. The bids were opened Aug. 15 at city hall, and the lowest of the bids was \$584,865, submitted by Hardrives Inc. of Rogers. The estimated city's share of the cost of the project was \$359,544, said city engineer Jon Halter of the firm of Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.

Halter recommended the project go up for bids this winter – either in January or February, and the project work could then begin in the summer months of 2019. Residents of the Celebration neighborhood will be notified by letter of the delay.

Halter said there could be inter-related reasons why the

bids were so in excess of estimated costs: the estimate having been too low; seasonal factors such as a shorter construction season; a spike in costs of materials. Halter added the winter months would be a better “bidding climate” for the project.

Council member Mike Chisum said he is concerned that accepting such higher-than-expected bids could cause assessments to residents to climb higher.

The Celebration drainage problem has surfaced many times during the past year at city council meetings. Finally, at the July 9 meeting, council members voted unanimously to proceed with the project to improve drainage in the streets and alleys of that neighborhood. The council at that time authorized advertising for bids.

For years, many of the residents of Celebration experienced drainage problems, causing water to pool up, especially in alleys, causing slimy patches, frozen areas and slippery conditions that prompted safety worries. Residents there used sump pumps but had, at best, spotty success in getting rid of the pooled-up water.

Council announces meeting times

The Sartell City Council has scheduled a tax information meeting and re-scheduled a regular council meeting.

The council meeting for Nov. 12 falls on a holiday (Veterans Day) so it will take place instead at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13.

The tax information meeting will take place at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, the time of the regularly scheduled council meeting. The tax meeting involves a public hearing for the preliminary budget levy as approved by the council at its Aug. 27 meeting.

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Cops

from front page

Mexico, Lester noted.

Another current drug abuse concern in Central Minnesota, as in many other places nationwide, is the scourge of opioid (painkiller) addiction. People can get “hooked” easily on prescription opioids. And then they soon learn when their line dries up that they can get high on heroin, which is often more freely available via secretive sales and often less expensive than buying black-market opioids.

Lester urged the audience members to get rid of any prescription drugs they no longer need by bringing them to a drug drop-box at the Sartell Police Department. That, he said, is especially true of opioids because some people raid medicine cabinets of relatives or even strangers to get their hands on such medications.

The Central Minnesota Violent Offenders Task Force works in a five-county area: Stearns, Benton, Sherburne, Morrison, Todd. The 16-member force, which deals with drugs, gangs and sex-trafficking, is the third-largest such force in Minnesota. The work includes undercover investigations, penetration of gangs through a network of informants, the initiation of high-risk arrests and the tracking of sex offenders. It also works in conjunction with the FBI.

Gangs, Lester said, do not appear to be on the increase in Central Minnesota. One factor that prevents formation of gangs, he noted, is when young people – especially those new to America – become adapted and acculturated to society; that adaptation and sense of belonging is a strong deterrent to any temptation to want to join gangs.

“I honestly haven’t seen a lot of it (gang activity) in this area,” Lester said.

Lester was asked if domestic abuse is on the increase. He said he doesn’t think it is, although it is more often reported because of an increasing awareness of the problem

by victims and friends and relatives of victims. It’s also in the news more often, he noted, because attorneys and the courts are becoming diligent at bringing charges against offenders and prosecuting them, Lester noted. He gave the Stearns County Attorney’s Office very high marks for prosecuting cases of physical and sexual abuse, including sex-trafficking crimes.

One problem in the greater St. Cloud area, Lester said, is that criminals, including drug- and sex-sellers, often come from as far away as Chicago, then move to Minneapolis and then to Central Minnesota. They find it easier to commit offenses and/or “hide out” in this area.

The best way for the general public to help law enforcement, including the Violent Offenders Task Force, is to “say something if they see something,” Lester advises. Any suspicious activity should be reported to local police and/or sheriff departments, he said. Those who convey information can remain anonymous if they choose.

Lester listed some behaviors that might indicate distribution of drugs, sex-trafficking or other crimes (such as dealing in stolen property – sometimes dubbed “fencing.”

- Watch for short-term traffic either day or night in a neighborhood. That means vehicles or pedestrians arriving and entering a house or apartment, staying for a short time, then leaving. Such a series of short visits can mean that drugs or sex are being sold.

- People should be aware crimes of drugs, sex, theft and violent abuse can happen in any kind of neighborhood. Perpetrators, Lester said, can look just as “ordinary” as anybody. The stereotype of the “wasted” drug dealer with emaciated body, pale skin, facial sores can be true in some cases, but Lester said most people would be surprised at how “ordinary” or even “respectable” some offenders look.

- Many residents, Lester added, think sex and drug

crimes happen mainly in decrepit neighborhoods. But, he added, they can happen in fine-looking homes, upscale apartment buildings, mobile homes – virtually anywhere. And the selling of drugs and prostitution can and do occur even in parks and other public places, he added.

- Lester said by acting on the key phrase of “See something, say something,” the general public can help police, deputies and task-force members “connect dots” to help combat crime. He also advises people who report crimes to be patient because in some cases it takes a lot of investigative work before search warrants can be obtained and arrests can be made.



photo by Dennis Dalman
Dave Gunderson (left) and LeRoy Sweeter grill burgers for the Cookout With Cops event Aug. 23 at the St. Francis Xavier Gathering Place.



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Board kicks off Levy for Learning

by **Dave DeMars**
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell-St. Stephen school board met in regular session on Aug. 20. Major areas of interest were the progress of construction of the new high school, a planned Levy for Learning and a report on the new Every Student Succeeds Act in the state of Minnesota.

Levy for Learning

In 2016, voters approved construction of a new high school and upgrades in some existing buildings to meet the needs of the growing school district for the next

15-20 years. Overall student enrollment is projected to grow from the current 3,800 to 4,060 by 2025.

With the new high school coming on line in 2019, the board is asking the voters of the district to authorize the Levy for Learning in order to fund the maintenance and operation of the district buildings, in particular the new high school. The scheduled vote will be Nov. 6.

Informational meetings are scheduled to educate the public as to why and what will be achieved with the funds from the Levy for Learning.

The Levy for Learning

aims to use funds in three areas: building operation, student education and class size, and innovation of new programs and incorporation of new technologies.

District figures indicate a home with a taxable value of \$100,000 could expect to see a yearly increase of \$82.62. A home valued at \$400,000 would see a \$330 yearly increase. To determine your household impact, visit the tax calculator report online at https://levyinfo.com/LevyInfo/ISD748_2018.php

Scheduled informational meeting dates are as follows:

Thursday, Sept. 13 at 9

a.m. at the Senior's Coffee and Conversation at Sartell Community Center;

Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 5:15 p.m. at St. Stephen City Hall;

Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sartell Middle School Hub; and

Wednesday, Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sartell High School Auditorium.

Construction

Construction is going as planned, Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert said. Good weather has made for lots of progress this summer with progress being made on the interior of the building and in the athletic fields outside. The project is on schedule and on budget. Plans are for the school to be open in September 2019.

Schwiebert said some community tours of the new school will be starting on Thursday nights in September so members of the community can see the progress that is being made.

Tours will begin at 6 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 6, 13, 20 and 27 and will last approximately one hour. Participants should park in the Oak Ridge Elementary School parking lot (1111 27th St. N.). Tours will begin and end there. Tours are limited to adults. Because it's an active construction site, attendees should wear substantial shoes and clothing that can be soiled.

All information concerning the tours will be on the district website and in the Sabre Spotlight, Schwiebert said.

ESSA

The ESSA was established to insure achievement gaps between various student groups are reduced. The

goals require a high level of success for all students, but take into account the accelerated improvement that's necessary for some student groups in order to close gaps.

Some of the student groups include American Indian/Native Alaskan, Asian, Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino. Groups also include English learners and students who are not English learners, Special Education and non-Special-Education students.

A school's overall performance is measured as the average performance of all student groups with at least 20 students. Performance areas being focused on include academic achievement, academic progress, consistency in school attendance, English language proficiency and graduation rate.

Under action items, the board took the following actions:

- Approved personnel assignment changes and salaries for those positions.

- Approved the new Principal Evaluation plan. The plan was discussed and a presentation made on its various components at the July regular board meeting.

- Approved a fundraiser for the middle-school football team. Funds will be used to purchase additional equipment and to hire additional coaches.

- Set Dec. 17 as the tentative date for the required Truth in Taxation hearing.

- Approved a resolution authorizing the district to become a member of the Minnesota Trust, an organization comprised of 187 school districts throughout the state dealing with financial matters and investments. Membership would allow the district to invest district funds at a more favorable rate of return.

- Approved changes in the Early Childhood Handbook.

- Approved a call for bids for new visual display boards for use in the new high school.

- Approved an application for a School Safety Grant through the Minnesota Department of Education which if granted, would be used to improve safe and secure entrances in the middle school for students and staff.

Under discussion items, the board undertook re-scheduling board meetings. The next regular board meeting will be Monday, Sept 17 at the District 748 Service Center.



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Design plans ordered for outdoor patio/stage

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

An outdoor patio concert stage just might become a reality at the Sartell Community Center in the not-too-distant future.

At its last meeting, the Sartell City Council voted 4-1 to authorize Miller Architects and Builders of St. Cloud to come up with designs and fine-tuned costs for such a project. Miller has worked with the city of Sartell on many parks-related projects throughout the years.

Council member David Peterson voted against the motion because he said there are other possible community-center amenities the council has yet to discuss, such as, the creation of outdoor pickleball courts, a skateboard park, outdoor basketball courts where kids could play free or birdhouse stations along the walking trails near the center. Peterson said the council was rushing into the patio-stage decision without considering other options, adding the park commission should have some input as to amenities.

In response to Peterson’s comments, Sartell Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll said that an outdoor stage – an amphitheater – had long been discussed as a priority amenity for the community center and was actually part of the long-term planning process for the center. Before the council discussion, the patio concert stage concept was presented to the council by Mark

Bragelman of Liberty Bank. That business has contributed for years to fun events in Sartell, most notably its Libertyville family-fun day during Sartell SummerFest weekends. At the last one, Libertyville took place on the grounds of the community center on the very place proposed for a concrete patio concert stage – the sloping ground leading from the south side of the center to the shore of Lake Francis, the large holding pond in that area.

Liberty Bank began sponsoring musical festivals as far back as 30 years ago, starting with a venue at St. Cloud’s Whitney Center. It has sponsored the Libertyville celebration in Sartell for the past six years.

Bragelman noted music is always a vital component of festivals. A concrete patio, a form of amphitheater, could be a multi-use amenity not just for musical performances but also for plays, speakers or other kinds of activities or cultural presentations.

The facility would serve as a stage and a patio, said Sartell Financial Director/Administrator Mary Degiovanni.

The cost of the contract with Miller will be about \$5,000, Degiovanni noted. The actual project cost is estimated at less than \$200,000. Funding in the Community Center Capital Project Fund could pay for the project. There is currently \$267,000 in that fund, Degiovanni told the council. In addition,

the city also currently has \$135,000 in its Park District I Fund. That or part of that could also be used if the council wishes to keep more funds in the capital-project fund, she added.

The city’s engineering firm of Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. would serve as civil engineer for the project, with Miller serving as construction manager.

Two council members – Mayor Nicoll and Ryan Fitzthum – volunteered to be in on Miller’s design-planning process for the patio stage.



contributed photo
Sartell City Council members were shown this photo as an example of what the outdoor stage area could look like.

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Opinion

Our View

Compromise, cooperation should be key issues for voters

It's hard to turn down a gift of \$6 million. But that's what happened because Minnesota's political leaders couldn't agree on a compromise spending bill. The bill passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature included measures they knew the DFL governor and legislators wouldn't support. The omnibus spending bill also contained noncontroversial items such as the formal request for Minnesota's share of the federal money to improve election security.

Minnesota's secretary of state would have spent the money to hire computer coders to secure the state's 14-year-old voter system. Minnesota, a state that has been attacked by foreign hackers more than once, will be the only state in the country that can't touch that cash because of a standoff between Republicans and Democrats.

Another victim of the failure to act was the urgent need to align Minnesota's income tax code with the new federal income tax tables that went into effect for 2018. Accountants expect surprises for taxpayers when it's time to file state income tax returns next spring.

These are just two examples of seemingly simple actions that stalled.

When voters are considering candidates this fall, they should ask candidates what they will do to deliver solutions. Incumbents who have stuck to "pure" positions, often funded by PACS instead of delivering results, should be voted out.

Politics in a democracy assumes we can find ways of living, working and progressing together even when we disagree.

Party purity and polarization have frozen results, both in St. Paul and Washington, D.C. Politicians who do compromise and cooperate to make deals are in electoral and fundraising danger at the hands of party extremists and PACs.

Polling organizations track public opinions on significant issues over time. Pollsters ask citizens their opinions about solutions to issues and where they stand on current legislation.

In response, citizens offer a range of opinions ranging from very liberal to very conservative. Traditionally, most people offer an opinion in the middle. Sometimes the stands are more to the left, sometimes more to the right. But mostly, the responses cluster around the middle so when the results are graphed, the graph resembles a mountain with the high point in the middle.

Not anymore.

Results now cluster at the ends...at the extremes on both the very liberal and very conservative points. As a result, the graph looks more like a valley, with the high points at the ends and the low points in the middle...the middle ground where compromise and cooperation happen.

If this approach continues, we'll see situations such as the \$6 million election security money turned down and no fix for the state tax code. In Washington, D.C., the politics of purity means that fixes and improvements to the Affordable Care Act failed, immigration policy is guided by a flurry of cruel executive orders tempered by the courts, and repairing and replacing bridges, railroads, highway and airports – something everybody agrees is needed – has been ignored.

During this fall's election, candidates need to convince us results matter more than party purity and bowing to big money.

Politics, at its best, is about creating a decent society, a task that can only be accomplished when citizens find ways of cooperating.

Visit our website, social media for the latest news

Sometimes the news can't wait. And readers can't wait until Friday to get it.

That's why for the past few months we've been publishing more news on our website, www.thenewsleaders.com.

Daily updates online include significant local news from Sartell, St. Stephen and St. Joseph that readers need to know right away such as actions by local government, election returns and road closings.

There are other stories that, if held until Friday, won't be news anymore such as community events that get scheduled at the last minute, changes or updates to coming activities.

And there are space limits to print. Our usual editions are either eight, 12 or 16 pages. Sometimes we have more news than we can fit in print. Issue size is somewhat determined by the number of ads and by the number of color advertising and editorial pages needed. Because of the limits of the printing press, we need to add pages in increments of four pages.

Perhaps the "perfect" size edition to accommodate the news and advertising is 14 pages. But we're limited to 12 pages, which means we don't have enough room for everything, or 16 pages, which may upset the advertising/news balance and leave us short of stories.

If we're tight, we'll sometimes decide to hold a story until the next edition.

Now we're putting some of the stories online right away and then holding them until the next print edition.

The past few months, we've also published more photos online than we'd have room for in print. For example, we've published online photo galleries of community events such as Sartell High School graduation and Joetown Rocks.

None of these digital efforts affects the print edition. You'll still find the feature stories, news about local governments and schools, opinions, police blotters and achievements in print.

The Newsleader print edition will continue to arrive in your mailbox for free. We're proud of the fact we deliver to every mailing address in the Sartell, St. Stephen and St. Joseph zip codes. That means more than 24,000 people in those communities see each edition. No other local media can match that readership coverage.

All the stories and photos from print will continue to be posted online.

In the coming weeks, we'll offer additional content online with a digital subscription that costs \$5 a month or \$50 per year for one town's content. If you want the content from both Sartell-St. Stephen and St. Joseph, then you can purchase the other paper for



Mike Knaak
Editor

The Al-Gore-rhythm versus Trump

On the latest season of the brilliant show "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," there's a moment when roommate Titus is explaining how computers know what you're searching for to Kimmy. "You know how Al Gore invented the internet? Well, he also invented a rhythm for it. It's a powerful rhythm. It's called the Al-Gore-rhythm."

Perhaps that's how Donald Trump thinks search engines really work. Recently, the President bemoaned the fact if one searches "Donald Trump news," the top search results are all negative stories or what the president deems "fake news." The only clear reason this would be happening is that Google is biased against Donald Trump and is giving priority to the fake news against him.

Or not.

All internet search engines, Google, Bing or even Pinterest, generate their results based on complex mathematical algorithms in order to place the result you are most likely to want closest to the top. Google is very good at letting people (marketers especially) know about changes to its algorithm and how it's ranking content. Search engines are constantly changing their algorithms to make sure you find the thing you are actually looking for when you type in "that song where the guy goes 'oh oh oh oh whoa'" and get the song "Tarzan Boy" by Baltimora.

The internet contains billions of articles, sites, pages, videos, songs and images. The only way to ever be able to actually find the needle you want in that hay mountain is with complex math. As it turns out, math is actually really hard to bias. Numbers don't lie, but people do use them to stretch the truth.

On the marketing side, we use the algorithms to find out what people are searching for and advertise our products (which may not appear at the top of the normal or "organic" search results) so they appear at the top of searches. That's why you see search results that will say "paid ad" or "sponsored content."

All of this is to say that it's not impossible for a search engine to



Patric Lewandowski
Guest Writer

only \$2 more, or \$7 a month or \$70 a year. (That's two months free if you go yearly.) The exclusive digital content will include daily updates, photo galleries, a digital replica of the print newspaper that you can download and video.

While we deliver free to every household in Sartell, St. Stephen and St. Joseph, the free online content plus subscription online features may be of interest to readers outside our delivery area. Our online statistics indicate a majority of our digital readers are outside of our print delivery areas so readers interested in seeing a digital replica of the print edition in PDF form may find a subscription useful.

Our digital efforts also include an expanded presence on social media. We invite you to follow us on Twitter @newsleadersmn for alerts on upcoming news or engage with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thenewsleaders.

If you can't wait until Friday, check out our website every day. Thenewsleaders.com works great on your smartphone as well.

View our website, www.thenewsleaders.com, on your laptop or smartphone.

somehow find a way to potentially have a minor tweak on results, but outside of extreme authoritarian regimes (see: China and North Korea), it's just not going to happen. The entire business models of these search engines is that they show you the content you are looking for. By giving you results you don't want, they make it more likely you won't use their product. Capitalism actually got one right this time.

That's sort of the weird thing about all this; you have a person who professes to be a businessman and big on "freedom" wanting to dictate to a private business orders that would cause it to lose customers. Trump has said Google's search results need to be "looked into." The only countries where the government looks into what search engines results are are extremely authoritarian. Authoritarianism, capitalism and freedom; one of these things is not like the other.

If Trump wants the news stories he likes to come up in searches, I advise he simply buy some Google Adwords connected to his links. Might I suggest the words "fake," "impeach" and "conspiracy?"



**GOT AN
OPINION?**

Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification)

The Newsleaders
P.O. Box 324
St. Joseph, MN 56374

Email: news@thenewsleaders.com

Lean thinking can work professionally, personally

During the last year or so, my dad has been reading through a lot of books for work. They’ve had various titles, but they all mentioned lean thinking or the lean workplace. Though I was always interested in learning about the subject, during senior year I never managed to pick one up. During the summer though, with college on the horizon and following my dad’s encouragement to read them, I started to read, and was amazed.

For those who haven’t heard of lean before, it’s a philosophy about how to make your life and your work more efficient and less wasteful. Now this may sound like a lot of self-help formulas that you’ve heard before, all of those books you’ve see on the shelves at stores promising to make everything great in just a few hours of reading, which is why I was kind of skeptical of the concept. After I was only a few pages into the book though, I could see this was different


from other strategies I’ve seen before.

The book is called 2-Second Lean, and is written by a businessman from Washington state named Paul Akers. The author is a very relatable person, who has been living his own American dream of starting his own company and selling products related to his hobby of woodworking. While he gets off to a good start soon after opening for business, he realizes he needs a new way of doing things to really make his business successful. Taking a trip with other businesspeople to Japan, he learned about lean thinking and started to apply it to his business and his life.

Lean is derived from the Toyota Production System, the operational philosophy of the world’s top-selling carmaker. Within their company decades ago, they decided the best way to run affairs and make it better was to always look for improvements that could be

Connor Kockler

Guest Writer



made in their processes, and to allow employees to take initiative and suggest changes that would better the workplace. It essentially makes every member of a company an equal contributor to finding new efficiencies and reducing waste at all levels from the entry-level employee to the CEO.

Akers applied these concepts to his company with the help of two consultants and the results were spectacular, but only after a few assumptions were challenged first. One of these revelations that really caught me was that of the inefficiency of a production-line, mass-production system. You would assume building hundreds of pieces of inventory at once and then storing them for sale would be good for a company’s efficiency right? Em-

ploying lean thinking though, you can see how this is actually a bad idea. If you manufacture too much inventory, it wastes the resources needed to make it just sitting on shelves waiting to be sold. And if there are mistakes made, they could affect the whole batch. Counterintuitively, it was better for the company to build things to order, saving time, resources and mistakes.

So what can this strategy do for you? Lean isn’t just for business. Akers talks about how he employs its strategies in all aspects of his life, making his morning routine more efficient for example. And that’s really what lean is all about, finding small inefficiencies and slowly making your day less work and more enjoyable at the same time. Think about what loses you minutes, or even seconds each day, and little by little, you’ll find more and more extra time and energy saved.

I can even employ it here at university. My German profes-

sor recently had our class read an article about how the internet and technology actually makes it harder to learn with all of its distractions. Students often talk about how they have little time to study, but if you think about all the time wasted from checking phones or clicking around tabs online while studying, you really can cut down your homework time and create more free time for yourself.

Lean thinking isn’t an end all be all, but when I first took a good look at it, it really made me think about how it’s really just simple and practical. Lean thinking is a great concept because it doesn’t promise the world if you just do one big thing. It’s about taking small steps every day to make a big difference in your life.

Connor Kockler is a student at St. John’s University. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.

Letter to the editor

Reader urges vote for Perske

*Dennis Molitor
Sartell*

As a long time Sartell resident and as a neighbor of Minnesota Senate candidate Joe Perske, I want to share my deep admiration for him as we all consider our voting decisions, on whom we want to represent us in St.

Paul stating next January.

Like many concerned citizens, I have always followed the performance of my local office-holders very closely. For the past 12 years I have personally observed Joe Perske’s passionate commitment to our community as Sartell city councilman, then mayor

and now as Stearns County commissioner. He has been as focused, determined and tireless in that work for all of us, as he was in his more than 100 marathon races.

Both in his 37 years of teaching and coaching our youth, and in his community and government service, Joe Perske has proven he

has the leadership qualities we need to stop the partisan gridlock in St. Paul, and to work toward compromise and progress in solving the serious issues facing Minnesota: health care, infrastructure, education, taxes and more.

For almost four decades in education, Joe was a

positive role model for the thousands of young lives he touched. As a principled moderate voice, he can be the same for his fellow legislators. Joe Perske has the values, wisdom and the determination for results that will earn him my vote in November. I hope he will earn your vote also.

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2018-19 Sabres Activities Schedule



photo by Luke Walker
2018 Knowledgebowl State Champions



photo by Angela Heckman
High School choir.

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

1.

Band - Pep, Marching and Jazz
2.

Choir - Sartell High School Choir Pop singers
3.

Drama - One-Act Play, Fall Play, Spring Musical
4.

Knowledge Bowl - 2018 state champs
5.

Math League
6.

Orchestra
7.

Speech

Below are other activities that begin later in the year and have schedules posted at a later time.

1.

Knowledge Bowl - 2018 state champs!
2.

Mock Trial - State entry
3.

Robotics Club
4.

TARGET
5.

Visual Arts Competition

Fall Play: <i>The Butler Did It</i>	Oct. 11	7 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Fall Play: <i>The Butler Did It</i>	Oct. 12	7 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Fall Play: <i>The Butler Did It</i>	Oct. 13	2 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Fall Band, Choir and Orchestra Concert	Oct. 15	7:30 p.m.	Sartell High School Gym
Winter Band/Orchestra Concert	Dec. 10	7:30 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Winter Choir Concert	Dec. 17	7:30 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
One-Act Play Performance	Jan. 22	7 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Jazz Swing Dance	Jan. 28	6 p.m.	Sartell High School Commons
Band/Orchestra Concert	March 4	7:30 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Sabre Showcase	March 12	7 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Choir Concert	March 18	7:30 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Spring Musical: <i>The Music Man</i>	April 25	7 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Spring Musical: <i>The Music Man</i>	April 26	7 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Spring Musical: <i>The Music Man</i>	April 27	2 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Spring Musical: <i>The Music Man</i>	April 27	7 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Sartell Middle School/ Sartell High School Jazz Extravaganza	May 2	7:30 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Spring Orchestra Concert	May 6	7:30 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium
Band Festival	May 13		Sartell High School Gym
Spring Choir Concert	May 20	7:30 p.m.	Sartell High School Auditorium

For information on these events and more, visit sartell-sabres.com.



Sartell High School Robotics



Sartell High School Choir



Fall play.

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