

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Sept. 21, 2018
Volume 23, Issue 29
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Millstream Arts Fest to be held Sept. 30

Millstream Arts Festival will offer free, supervised bike-corral services by St. John's Preparatory National Honor Society students for those who wish to cycle to the festival. The corral will be located near the information booth. The event will be held from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30 and includes juried art, music, food and activities for all. Food-shelf donations welcome at the info booth. For more information, visit millstreamartsfestival.org.

St. Stephen Citywide Garage Sales set Sept. 27-29

The citywide garage sale weekend has been set for Sept 27-29. Individual sales are marked. Stop by Howie's Corner Bar, The Rusty Nail or Trobec's Bar for lunch!

Frantober Fest set Sept. 22, 23

Frantober Fest, hosted by St. Francis Xavier Catholic Community, will be held starting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 22 and 23 at the church at 219 Second St. N, Sartell. The event features Franny Flyer Walk and Run, live music by Radio Nation, Dad's Belgian Waffles, a silent auction, bake sale, games, food, inflatables and more. For more information, visit frannyflyer.eventbrite.com.

Daily news on thenewsleaders.com

Every weekday, there are exclusive local stories for you to read at thenewsleaders.com. These stories are available only to subscribers to thenewsleaders.com. You can read daily news, see exclusive stories and download digital versions of The Newsleaders for \$5 a month or \$50 a year.

INSERTS: Heidi for House Rep. O'Driscoll Woodcrest of Country Manor

- Stories only on thenewsleaders.com*
- Sartell student earns perfect ACT score
 - Homecoming fundraiser tradition continues
 - Photo gallery Pet Walk

A tour of Sartell's dream school

by Dave DeMars
news@thenewsleaders.com

The first tour of the new Sartell high school started in the parking lot of Oak Ridge Elementary School and lasted about an hour. To prepare for any future tours, be sure to bring your curiosity, a sense of wonderment and a sharp imagination.

Right now the school is a world of girders and beams, conduit and concrete and metal studs that give a vague outline of what it will be when it is finished. But it was well worth the time and energy.

Principal Brenda Steve guided one of three groups of about a dozen or so people around the outside campus area and through the partially constructed building that is scheduled to be finished in time for the 2019 fall opening.

"This is on time and on budget, so we should be moving in sometime in July," Steve announced as she led us down the path toward Sartell's

version of the Taj Mahal.

The outside

Our tour path took us past partially finished softball and baseball fields. Slabs of concrete with conduit and pipe jutting into the air awaited the construction of walls for dugouts and warm-up areas. The field itself was green and lush and already seemed ready for the first game despite the recent heavy rains.

The base of the field was designed to drain heavy rain water away from the field and into drainage swales. The runoff will be reclaimed and treated so it can be re-used for irrigation when needed, Steve explained. Along with the baseball and softball fields were large expanses of open green areas. Buildings will be constructed for mowers and maintenance equipment, as well, because there will be lots of fields that will need mowing, Steve said.

"These are fields that we can use

Tour • page 5

Sabres cross country competes in Little Falls



photo by Patric Lewandowski

Coach Dave Driste gives last-second advice to members of the Sartell Sabres Cross Country Team before their race at the Lucky Lindy race in Little Falls on Sept. 13. Twenty-five teams competed in the event. The girls varsity team finished second. The boys varsity team captured fourth place.

Two veteran candidates vie for Stearns sheriff

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Two men, each with nearly three decades in law enforcement, are competing to be the first new sheriff elected in Stearns County in 16 years.

Dave Bentrud, Waite Park police chief, and Steve Soyka, a Stearns County Sheriff's Office sergeant, are on the ballot Nov. 6. One of them will replace Don Gudmundson who was appointed to fill out the term of Sheriff John Sanner after Sanner retired

in 2017.

Both candidates stress the need for better cooperation and communication with county resi-



Bentrud

dents as well as city officials and police departments in sprawling Stearns County. With a population of more than 155,000 people, deputies patrol a county that stretches more than 60 miles from metro St. Cloud to



Soyka

their considerable professional and academic experiences.

Bentrud, 60, is the "outside" candidate. Before serving as chief in Waite Park for 10 years, Bentrud was a sergeant in the St. Cloud Police Department. He

touts his experience leading an entire department and his familiarity with management issues such as budgeting, technology and recruiting officers.

The two candidates diverge over the value and significance of

the farms and fields at the western end of the county.

Soyka, 48, has spent his entire career in sheriff's departments, first as a deputy in Benton County and for the last 22 years in the Stearns County Sheriff's Office. Soyka emphasizes his experience with a sheriff's wider responsibilities such as running a jail, 911 dispatching and civil-process service.

Sheriff • page 8

Good news Sartell-St. Stephen school district



photo by Dave DeMars

Early Childhood Coordinator Michele Rogers points out some pertinent information about the performance of 4-year-olds in the areas of mathematics and reading. Students are expected to be able to count to 20 and identify 10 letters of the alphabet.

by Dave DeMars
news@thenewsleaders.com

At its regular Sept. 17 board meeting the Sartell-St. Stephen school board heard a good news report in the form of a comprehensive 2017-18 District Assessment Results. The report detailed results from the Northstar Ratings Every Student Succeeds Act, the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments and the American College Testing. The report was presented by Kay Nelson, assistant superintendent of Learning Services, Marie Pangerl, district assessment coordinator, Michele Rogers, Early Childhood coordinator, and building principals.

After the presentation of the 2017-18 assessment results, there was further discussion on the continuous improvement goals for 2018-19.

Nelson's report covered the

makeup of the student body (92 percent white) and the fact that only about 15 percent of students in the district required special education of some kind. Also, only 15 percent of students qualified for free or reduced lunch, and only 1.2 percent students had a language other than English as their primary language. High numbers in these areas tend to correlate strongly with lower overall achievement results.

The ESSA report covered five major areas; Academic Achievement, Academic Progress, English Language Proficiency, Graduation Rate, and Attendance Consistency.

Academic achievement was measured in two major areas; math and reading. In the area of math, students scored 19 percent higher than the state average; in

School • back page

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 tricitycrimestoppers.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.

Sept. 5
5:55 p.m. Harassment restraining order. Pinecone Road. Officers were dispatched to a business where an individual was being harassed by another. The suspect had a restraining order against him. Officers arrived but the individual had already left. Via phone conversation, the suspect was aware of his harassment restraining order and informed the officers he would turn himself in the following day.

Sept. 6
3:45 p.m. DUI. 12th Street N. Officers stopped a vehicle because a passenger was not wearing a seatbelt. The driver showed signs of impairment. Officers conducted a sobriety test. The individual was arrested and transported to St. Cloud Hospital prior to being transported to the Stearns County jail for first-degree DUI.

Sept. 7
3:35 p.m. Identity theft. 20th Avenue S. An individual reported her identity protection company had notified her that her son's Social Security number had been used to open a cell-phone account. The cell-service provider agreed to lock the account until the person could come in person to verify the information.

Sept. 8
10:45 p.m. Bike-safety equipment. Hwy. 15. Officers noticed an individual riding the shoulder with no safety equipment on his bike. Officers stopped the individual to inform him he needed safety equipment on his bike and a verbal warning was issued.

Sept. 9
1:45 a.m. Intoxicated person. CR 120. Officers were dispatched to a man lying in the grass close to the road. Officers saw the individual passed out. The officer woke the individual and the individual showed signs of intoxication. Officers found he lived close by and stayed with the individual until a roommate arrived to take him home.

Sept. 10
11:15 p.m. Suspicious activity. Riverside Avenue S. Offi-

cers were dispatched to a residence where the resident heard what she described as a person screaming across the road. Upon arrival the sound was discovered to be an animal in the area.

Sept. 11
12:55 a.m. Traffic stop. CR 1. Officers observed a vehicle make an illegal U-turn in an intersection. When stopped, the driver admitted he knew he was not in the turn lane prior to making the turn. Driver was issued a citation for the infraction.

Sept. 12
7:15 p.m. Traffic stop. Pinecone Road. Traffic stop. An officer noticed a vehicle was traveling on Pinecone Road with expired tabs. Waiting for a safe location to pull the vehicle over, the officer witnessed the driver fail to yield to a pedestrian at a crosswalk. Officers pulled the vehicle over and the driver stated that she was unaware that her tabs were expired. Officer cited driver and also issued a warning for the infractions.

Sept. 13
5:30 p.m. Shoplifting. Officer was dispatched to a cooperative male and female shoplifters. The officer interviewed the individuals. They had attempted to take DVDs from the store.

One individual accepted responsibility for the stolen items. Individual was cited for misdemeanor theft because of the amount taken.

Sept. 14
11:26 a.m. Altercation. Avenue E. An officer was dispatched to a possible domestic situation at a place of employment. The officer arrived and interviewed witnesses involved stating that a man and a woman had an argument in the parking lot and the man had attempted to remove the woman from her vehicle. Both individuals left in separate vehicles. The officer contacted the fwoman and she said that she was OK and had not been assaulted. The officer discussed a safety plan for her.

Sept. 15
9:30 p.m. Fight. Pinecone Road. It was reported by witnesses that an individual attempting to break up a fight when a woman blocked his path. The individual pushed the blocker out of the way. The individual and their spouse began an altercation with the person resulting in bruising and swelling to the individual's face. Both individuals were cited for fifth-degree assault and released afterward.

Sept. 16
5:35 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 120.

An officer conducted a routine license plate search. The vehicle belonged to an individual with a suspended license. When the vehicle was stopped, the officer observed that the driver matched the description of the individual with the suspended license. The officer issued a citation. A verbal warning was issued to the individual observed in the backseat without a seatbelt on.

Sept. 17
7 p.m. Harassment. 11th Street S. Officers were called about an individual leaving harassing voicemails and text messages. The complainants stated they wanted the harassing messages documented. Officers advised the complainants about harassment restraining orders. Officers took copies of the harassing text messages and recordings of the voicemails.

Sept. 18
5:30 a.m. Traffic stop. CR 133. An officer witnessed a vehicle traveling at a higher rate of speed than the posted speed limit. After confirming with radar the individual was stopped. This individual admitted they knew the posted speed limit and that they were traveling well above that limit. Individual was cited for the infraction.

Assessment hearing set for properties along Pinecone

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

A public assessment hearing will take place starting at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 8 at Sartell City Hall for property owners proposed to be assessed along Pinecone Road N. – the stretch of that road that leads to the new high school.

The area includes property in Le Sauk Township, which contains 20 parcels that would not be currently assessed but would be subject to future assessments if and when they annex into the city. And there are three properties within the city proposed to be assessed currently. The

area in question is the length along Pinecone Road between 15th Street N. and 35th Street N.

At the last city-council meeting, council members discussed the preliminary assessments at great length, wondering whether to waive parts of the planned assessments or to give some kind of discounts. What is to be assessed to property owners are partial costs of the road reconstruction project on Pinecone in that area, as well as city water-and-sewer improvements if the properties should ever be annexed into the city.

Council members Pat Lynch and Mike Chisum questioned whether or not homeowners on that stretch will

benefit directly from the reconstructed and widened road. If not, why should they be assessed for part of its cost? The new school is the driving force behind the reconstructed road; the homeowners there just happen to be living on the road's edges, Lynch noted. How is "more traffic" a benefit to those neighbors?, Chisum mused.

Each homeowner would be assessed about \$1,500 for road costs, said Sartell City Engineer Jon Halter. Road assessments to property owners comprise 35 percent of the total cost of a standard residential street – not the actual cost of the road work for the wider street being

constructed on the route to the new high school.

The road there is currently 24 feet wide; it will be 45 feet wide.

The council came to an informal consensus that assessments should not be waived for a number of reasons, including not wanting to set a bad precedent. The council, however, did seem to favor waiving a \$450 annexation request fee and will consider a reduction of water and sewer access charges if any of the homes in that area annex to the city within a certain time period. Access charges are fees charged separately from the assessments at the time a home connects to city water and sewer.

Currently there are 23 properties subject to assessment or future assessments. They include one house now within the city limits (its preliminary assessment costs are \$13,200), Celebration Lutheran Church (assessments of \$30,600) and the new high school (\$950,000 assessment to the school district). The other properties, 20 parcels, are now located in township territory along Pinecone Road.

Any current assessments would be payable over the course of a 15-year period at 4.5-percent interest, said Sartell City Administrator Mary Deviovanni.

CRAFT-VENDOR SALES

Saturday, Oct. 6

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

Sartell High School Homecoming Parade, 5:30 p.m. starting at the St. Francis Xavier parking lot and ending at the Middle School parking lot.

St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. Music by Artisan. \$6 admission for nonmembers. 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, 651-633-6358 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.

Monday Sept. 24
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk

Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

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

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

Tuesday, Sept. 25
Central Minnesota Market, 3-5:30 p.m., VA Hospital, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-251-2498.
National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101.

Wednesday, Sept. 26
Free immigration services, 9 a.m.-noon, Community Outpost, 600 13th St. S., St. Cloud.

Daily passenger train forum, sponsored by All Aboard Minnesota, 6:30-7:30 p.m., St. Cloud Public Library, 1300 St. Germain St. Discussion of additional passenger train service through St. Cloud connecting to the Twin Cities and Chicago.

Thursday, Sept. 27
Coffee and Conversation, Sartell-St. Stephen school district levy informational meeting, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

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.

WACOSA fundraiser, 4-8 p.m. Panera Bread, St. Cloud. Bring the WACOSA-specific flier.

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

Friday, Sept. 28
Benton County Museum, 10

a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Sunday Sept. 30
Millstream Arts Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., featuring artists, musicians and food vendors, downtown St. Joseph.

Quarry Park Interpretive Session, Plant Identification 101, 5 p.m., meet at the Quarry Park information kiosk, 1802 CR 137, Waite Park. Advance registration and parking pass required. Contact the park office, 320-255-6172.

Monday, Oct. 1
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

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

Sartell Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., upstairs of Blue Line Sports Bar and Grill, 1101 Second St. S., Sartell. 320-267-2591.

Tuesday, Oct. 2
Memory Writers group, develop topics and turn in stories, 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.

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

The Realities of Aging, 7 p.m., Natural Process of Aging presented by Dr. Greg Schlosser; 8 p.m. The Aging Brain presented by Dr. Patrick Zook, St. Francis Xavier Church, 219 Second St. N., Sartell.

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

Wednesday, Oct. 3
Free immigration services, 9 a.m.-noon, Discovery Community School, 700 Seventh St. S., Waite

Park.
Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids.

Sartell-St. Stephen school district levy meeting, 5:15 p.m., St. Stephen City Hall.

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

Thursday, Oct. 4
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

Nordic walking, sponsored by Independent Lifestyles, 9 a.m., Lake George St. Cloud. 320-529-9000.

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

Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.

Friday, Oct. 5
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Post-polio support group, 10:30 a.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids.

Saturday, Oct. 6
Celebrate the 111th anniversary of Sartell’s founding, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. 10 a.m.-noon, children’s games; 12:30-2 p.m., Riverside Jazz Band; 1, 2 and 3 p.m. historical trolley tours. Register for tours at 320-253-4036 or doyscher-domres@sartell.k12.mn.us.

Sunday, Oct. 7
Coin Expo, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuscan Center, Midtown Square, Mall, 3333 Division St., St. Cloud.

People

Janagan Ramanathan, son of Vasugi and Gajen Ramanathan, and a junior at Sartell High School, earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36. On average, only around one-tenth of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earn a top score. The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science, each scored on a scale of 1–36. A student’s composite score is the average of the four test scores.
“Janagan is a remarkable young man who is involved in



Ramanathan

academic, athletic, leadership and civic activities. I am very proud of his achievement,” said Sartell High School Principal Brenda Steve.

Brandon Nordhues, choral director at Sartell High School, has been named Outstanding Young Choral Director from the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota. Nordhues will be honored at the annual ACDA-MN State Conference Award Luncheon on Nov. 17 at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, the site



Nordhues

of the annual conference.

Nordhues was nominated by ACDA-MN member André Heywood, himself a recipient of the award in 2013, and current artistic director for The St. John’s Boys’ Choir, and colleague of Nordhues in the St. John’s program.

The award program was first established in 1988, and has recognized 26 individuals for their outstanding contributions, noteworthy servant leadership, and promotion of choral music within their communities and throughout the state of Minnesota.

Tiana Wood of Sartell has been named to the spring semester dean’s list at the University of Minnesota-Morris.

Student must achieve a minimum 3.67 grade-point average to earn this honor.

Three Sartell students recently received scholarships from the Central Minnesota Community Foundation in conjunction with CommunityGiving.

The students are: **Kayleen Martins**, \$1,000 from the Julie Ann Hanson Scholarship Fund; **Tianna Raden**, \$2,000 from the Evelyn Lenander Scholarship Fund; and **Rachel Taszarek** \$1,000 from the Julie Ann Hanson Scholarship Fund.

The foundation awarded \$168,600 in academic scholarships for the coming school year to 101 students.

by a CentraCare dietitian; and “Driving Safely” Ruben Zayas of the Cold Spring Police Department.

“Final Planning” will be explored and discussed at the Jan. 8 and Feb. 5 sessions. This free series is presented by St. Francis Xavier Church Health and Wellness Committee.

wiehoff@yahoo.com or call 320-253-5935.

Nov. 6 topics include: “Staying Safe in Your Home” presented by the Central Minnesota Council on Aging; “Hospice/Palliative Care/Health Care Directives” presented by the CentraCare Hospice Program; “Nutrition for Aging” presented

CNA POSITION

Saint John’s Abbey invites applications for a part-time, benefit-eligible position, three days per week, in the Abbey Retirement Center.

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

‘Realities of Aging’ begins Oct. 2 at SFX

The Realities of Aging, a four-part series, will take place from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, and continuing Nov. 6, Jan. 8 and Feb. 5 – all sessions at the St. Francis Xavier Church’s Gathering Place in Sartell.

This free series is presented by St. Francis Xavier Church Health and Wellness Commit-

tee. The Oct. 2 session will begin with “The Natural Aging Process” presented by Dr. Greg Schlosser, followed by a presentation on “The Aging Brain” by Dr. Patrick Zook.

RSVP is encouraged. Please email or call Rose or Bev at: RMW8786@gmail.com or call at 320-259-5794, Or email don-

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748

AUG. 20, 2018 - DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER BOARD ROOM

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 5 p.m. by Chair Jason Nies. Members present: Nies; Mary McCabe, vice chair; Jeremy Snoberger, treasurer; Lesa Kramer, director; Patrick Marushin, director; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Members absent: Pamela Raden, clerk.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by Kramer to APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS: move Action Item C5 – Approve Minnesota Trust Resolution to Report Item D6; add to personnel omnibus Chris Euteneuer; adjust personnel omnibus position for Greg Henning, compensation of Stacy Steil-Anderson and leave of absence for Denise Waldvogel; add to resignations Jeannie Klehr. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

- a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on July 16, 2018
- b. Checks in the amount of \$2,557,313.13 as presented:

General Fund	1,988,336.73
Food Service Fund	20,793.32
Transportation Fund	31,778.20
Community Service Fund	37,079.20
Capital Expenditure Fund	467,286.27
Scholarship Trust Fund	2,250.00
Summer Rec Agency Fund	9,789.41
Check numbers 172487 - 172792	
Receipts in the amount of \$1,878,890.70 as presented:	
General Fund	1,392,071.75
Food Service Fund	2,304.62
Transportation Fund	38,123.21
Community Service Fund	17,327.72
Capital Expenditure Fund	42,468.00
Building Fund	11,054.95
Debt Service Fund	371,155.95
Summer Rec Agency Fund	4,384.50
Receipts 44844-44929	
Wire transfers in the amount of \$6,984.20 as presented:	
General Fund	5,714.40
Food Service Fund	154.23
Community Service Fund	54.82
Summer Rec Agency Fund	1,060.75
Wire transfers 201800007-201800017	
Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$7,035,820.39 as presented:	
Building Fund	7,035,820.39
Check number 600293-600337	

c, Accept the resignation of Deb Albright, SHS, building attendant, 7/31/18; Lisa Boe, ORE, student supervisor, 8/6/18; Hayley Erdman, ORE, para, 8/11/18; Sandra Hommerding-Trettel, PME, cashier, 7/26/18; Jeannie Klehr, Transp, van driver, 8/16/18; Priscilla Lessard, ORE, morning cashier/food service worker, 8/14/18; Rebecca Nielsen, SHS, food service worker, 8/9/18; Mindy Strom, ORE, elementary education, 8/31/18; James Trettel, SMS, food service worker, 7/27/18.

d. Accept the following donations:
Pine Meadow PTO Elementary, Pine Meadow Elementary, \$741.45, classroom supplies; Wells Fargo & Co., Sartell High School, \$1,000, business education program supplies; BerganKDV, Early Childhood Family Education, \$119.46, general donation; Sabres All Sports Booster Club, Sartell High School, \$2,890.26, strength/condition program; Pine Meadow PTO Elementary, Pine Meadow Elementary, \$1,491.14, classroom supplies; Owen’s Night Out, ISD 748, \$56.97, musical instrument; Lora Asfeld, ISD 748, \$527.53, uniform cleaning.

Student Representative Report:

No report.

Construction Manager Report on Building Process:

Construction Manager Lee Gruen reported the project remains on track. The roofing is completed, athletic field seeding is continuing, pool drain and decks should be poured by the end of August and interior walls are currently ahead of schedule. The theater will be the next big completion. Irrigation pumps and ponds are working and the site was very successful in the recent heavy rains only showing minimal erosion.

Superintendent Report:

Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent

Superintendent Schwiebert reported John Waletzko and Lee Gruen will be doing a pre-tour for safety and then tours of the new high school site will begin Monday with 55 staff members. Tours will begin for the public with the next group being the original community planning committee. The Sabre Spotlight is going out to the community and will highlight what the public will see for tours and the levy-for-learning presentation. Upcoming events include new teacher introductions on Wednesday, the all-staff breakfast next Tuesday, the levy-for-learning presentation for staff and Pinecone Road and 27th Street North will be open and have full access for the start of school on Sept. 4. No enrollment report this month since it’s the start of the school year, but kindergarten enrollment is showing growth compared to the last four years.

School Board Committee Report:

Director Kramer reported the first Drug Free Coalition meeting will be held on Tuesday Sept. 11 at 6 pm.

Chair Nies reported the Steering Committee is receiving the schematics for the Middle School remodel and received an update on the budget as Bradbury Stamm and Cuningham Group work together on it.

Vice Chair McCabe reported on the recent Policy Committee meeting and the committee’s recommendations for policy reviews and revisions in tonight’s packet.

Minnesota’s Every Student Succeeds Act Report:

Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services Kay Nelson reported on Minnesota’s implementation plan for Every Student Succeeds Act.

Minnesota Trust Report:

Director of Business Services Joe Prom reported on the Minnesota Trust Resolution.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by McCabe to APPROVE #1-32:

New Employees/Changes:

Charlotte Becker, PME, para, \$21.87, RIV, S6, 6.5 hours/day, replacing Doris Nathe, 8/28/2018; Nathan Berthelsen, SMS, LTS choral director, \$40,371, BA, Step A, replacing Kara Rysavy, 8/27/2018; Nathan Conway, DSC, server administrator, \$24.83/hour, 240 days/year, new position, 7/16/2018; Sarah Crandall, SHS, girls’ head tennis, \$4,022

(9.5 percent), BA, C (\$42,334), replacing Bryan Baumann, 8/13/2018; Sasha Doeden, SHS, cashier, \$15.27/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Donna Southerland, 8/23/2018; Barbara Eaton, SMS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, new position, 8/28/2018; Chris Euteneuer, SHS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, new position, 8/28/2018; Valerie Gruba, ORE, morning food service worker/cashier, \$15.27/hour, R1, S1, 1.25 hours/day, replacing Mary Ann Terwey, 8/23/2018; Greg Henning, SHS, assitant cross country – outside funded, \$1,905 (9.5 percent), BA, C (\$42,334), replacing Chad Claybaugh, 8/13/2018; Dorothy Karls, Transportation, bus driver, \$22.83/hour, 3 hours/day, replacing Karen Evenson, 8/28/2018; Sam Kendall, SHS, assistant girls’ swim, \$3,649 (9.5 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Sue Sathre, 8/13/2018; Sue Kloetzer, PME, food service worker, \$15.27/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Sue Pogatchnik, 8/23/2018; Nazlah Krenzelok, SMS, food service worker, \$16.23/hour, R1, S2, 3 hours/day, replacing Jessie Kovall, 8/23/2018; Kadie Mathews, DSC, lead child care attendant, \$15.31/hour, RIII, S1, new position, 8/28/2018; Molly Meier, PME, kindergarten, \$44,294, BA, Step E, new position, 8/27/2018; Sean Minder, SHS, ninth-grade football, \$4,136 (10.5 percent), BA, 00 (\$39,394), replacing Jake Sailor, 8/13/2018; Joyce O’Hara, SMS, para, \$21.87/hour, RIV, S6, 7 hours/day, replacing Jackie Lindner, 8/28/2018; Janice Olson, SHS, food service worker, \$15.27/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Carol Kiekow, 8/23/2018; Nicholas Osowski, ORE, SPED, \$40,371, BA, Step A, replacing Joy Bemboom, 8/27/2018; Jesse Paggen, ORE, head custodian, \$26.74/hour, RVIII, S6, 8 hours/day, new position, 8/6/2018; Sue Pogatchnik, PME, cashier, \$16.23/hour, R1, S2, 3 hours/day, replacing Sandy Hommerding-Trettel, 8/23/2018; Nancy Przybilla, SHS, SPED, \$68,777, MA, Step R, replacing Lorie Duevel, 8/27/2018; Nichole Shekleton, DSC, information technology – Level I, \$19.05/hour, 180 days/year, replacing Nathan Conway, 10/1/2018; Jacob Smith, SHS, ninth-grade girls’ basketball, \$4,136 (10.5 percent), BA, 00 (\$39,394, replacing Leah Summerville, 11/12/2018; Christina Studanski, SHS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, replacing Joyce O’Hara, 8/28/2018; Lindsey Trimbo, ORE, kindergarten, \$40,371, BA, Step A, replacing Corinne Lyon, 8/27/2018; Raleigh Woodruff, SMS, math, \$62,535, MA, Step M, replacing Danielle Olson, 8/27/2018; Madelyn Zinken, SHS, ninth-grade volleyball, \$3,649 (9.5 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Chelsey Mersbergen), 8/13/2018.

New Employees – Pending Licensure:

Stacy Steil-Anderson, SHS, family and consumer science, \$25,301, MA, Step A, .5 FTE, replacing Shirley Janu, 8/27/18; Kimberly Willis, SMS/SHS, social worker, \$51,581, MA, Step B, replacing Emily Gestach, 8/27/18.

Leaves of Absence:
Denise Waldvogel, ORE, para, LOA, 8/27/18 – 10/5/18; Kara Rysavy, SMS, choral director, LOA, 2018-19 school year.
All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by McCabe and seconded by Snoberger to APPROVE THE PRINCIPAL EVALUATION PLAN. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Kramer to APPROVE TEAM FUNDRAISER FOR THE SARTELL FOOTBALL TEAM. After discussion, Marushin amended the motion to APPROVE TEAM FUNDRAISER FOR THE SARTELL FOOTBALL TEAM WITH THE REQUIREMENT THAT STUDENTS, IF SUBMITTING AN EMAIL ADDRESS, INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION AND RECEIVE PRIOR PERMISSION THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESS WILL BE SHARED WITH SNAP-RAISE. The amended motion was seconded by Kramer. All in favor. The amended motion carried.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Snoberger to APPROVE TRUTH IN TAXATION TENTATIVE HEARING DATE at 6 p.m. DEC. 17, 2018, LOCATED AT SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE CHANGES IN THE 2018-2019 EARLY CHILDHOOD AND LITTLE KIDS CONNECTION SUPPLEMENT HANDBOOKS. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by McCabe to APPROVE CALL FOR BIDS FOR VISUAL DISPLAY BOARDS (MATERIALS ONLY) AT THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Snoberger to APPROVE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION TO SUBMIT THE SCHOOL SAFETY GRANT APPLICATION TO MDE. All in favor. Motion carried.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Future Board Meeting – 6:30 p.m. Monday Sept. 17, 2018 – District Service Center

Official Review of Policies:
The Board completed official review of policies 412 and 422.
The Board had the official first reading of revision of policies 404, 418, 419, 420, 424 and 427.
The Board had the official first reading of proposed policy 722.

Committees
Committee assignments for 2018 were reviewed.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:52 p.m. was made by Marushin and seconded by Snoberger. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/Jeremy Snoberger, Treasurer

Publish: Sept. 21, 2018

Tour

from front page

for everything – softball, football, lacrosse, baseball, softball if we choose to,” Steve said, “but what I am most excited about is being able to use this for our phy(s) ed green space.”

The area is accessible from several directions, Steve explained. The area is easily reached from the locker-room areas. That is a change from the situation at the present high school where fields are somewhat removed from the school. Fields at the new school will allow for better supervision.

One member of the tour group asked what will become of the old high school once the new building is finished?

Steve explained it would be shut down for a year to allow for upgrades and modifications and then reopened in the fall of 2020 for use as a middle school.

Activity and programs

As we reached a back activity entrance of the building, Steve explained entrances will be locked during school hours, and teachers and coaches will need to have access cards for those entrances. During the evenings when athletes are arriving to compete, the entrance will be open. A parking lot on this side of the building will give athletes a place to park and access the building.

Just inside the activity entrance is the pool. It’s larger than the pool in the present high school. The seating for fans has been roughed in and work continues on the pool. Across a hallway is an auxiliary gymnasium that will house a basketball area or two volleyball courts.

The main gym is much larger with three basketball areas with seating for 2,000 fans who will enter through the main doors of the high school.

“It’s a bigger space with more



photo by Dave DeMars

Shown is the baseball field looking toward the back of the new high school. In the foreground is a pavilion that will hold the bleachers for four different activity fields, as well as an open space in the center to meet friends.

space between our courts than in the present school,” Steve said. “Curtains will divide the different playing areas, but we will be able to accommodate multiple courts with multiple needs.”

The space in the main gym will have suspended wrestling mats that will be lowered when needed so they will not need to roll the mats up after each use.

Steve led us down the long hallway that leads to what will eventually be a commons area. She described a series of murals that will decorate the hallway and pointed out various areas for offices, locker rooms, a lab that will house health classrooms and certified nursing assistant labs.

“We hope to produce some CNAs out of our high school, and we are partnering with some organizations right now to make that happen, so we are thrilled about that,” Steve said.

The CNA program is relatively new, but Steve said right now there is a shortage of CNAs and many students can’t get in to nursing programs without a CNA license. So the school will be helping to fill a need in the community.

One area will serve as a training room and bio-medical area.

“We have a program right now where we partner with the Ortho-

pedic Sports Center and we have physicians and therapists who come and work with our kids who want to be physical therapists,” Steve said.

An adjacent area will house the fitness-training and weight room.

We headed down a hallway that eventually brought us to the commons and the ticketing area for entrance into sporting events in the main gymnasium. Immediately off the commons is the culinary area. It houses several kitchen areas. One is a general culinary area and the other will be set up to resemble a restaurant.

“Our students will be able to cook and serve the public or students or staff out of that space,” Steve said. “They will get some real-life experience out of that, as well.”

The commons is a multi-use area with a variety of venues occupying the space. Primarily it’s an eating area that is much bigger than the present school. The commons houses the concession stand for sporting events, a school store, a student-run coffee shop and book cases.

Book cases will be placed strategically throughout the building in various areas without having a designated “library” as was common in schools in the past.

“We decided to disperse our books throughout the building,” Steve said.

“If a student wants a book, they swipe their ID, they take their book, they put it under the beeper dealy and then they have the book. They check it back in in the same way. They don’t have to go into a space that might be closed after hours. It’s similar to what they have done at the community center.”

The idea was to have books all around students and books in the classroom, which is why the new approach is being used.

Learning neighborhoods

There will be lots of glass walls allowing for observation of what is going on in the culinary areas and other areas. That will take some training and getting used to, Steve said, but it has worked in other systems, so she is optimistic it will work in Sartell.

Down the hallway just off the commons are the black-box areas. These are performance areas that can be used as classrooms, also referred to as learning studios. The focus in school is to encourage collaborative learning, hence the design of multi-use rooms and areas to allow for as much exploration of ideas and problems as possible.

“We can use this for lots of different things,” Steve said, “for performances, for classes, a great space for astronomy because it will be totally

dark.”

Steve pointed out the various learning neighborhoods – tech ed, art, music, phy(s) ed, the office, science, English, math, foreign languages – all will be accessible and easily reached in a minute or two.

“Everything is really contained and together,” said Steve, as she led us up a set of stairs to the upper level where science classes will be held.

Various areas were explained as being classrooms. Each is outfitted with lots of white boards for students to design and work out problems. Kids will even be able to write on the glass walls that allow for observation of classroom activity.

The Cloud Lab area will be set up for everything related to computers and digital. It will host web page design and cyber security, which are just two of the offerings in that area.

The learning neighborhoods are pretty much mirrors of one another with areas for small- and medium-group collaboration, labs for experimentation, regular learning studios and presentation areas. Steve estimates the average class size will be about 26. The present high school has about 1,200 students. She expects that number will grow to about 1,300 by the time the new school opens.

Sartell birthday bash set for Oct. 6

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

Live music, games for children, prizes and trolley rides that will transport riders back into history will all be part of the upcoming Sartell 111th birthday bash.

The event, sponsored by the Sartell Historical Society, will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6 at the Sartell Community Center.

Judy Morgan, member of the historical society, shared details of the “Happy Birthday, Sartell!” event with the Sartell Newsleader.

The following will be components of the celebration:

From 10:30 a.m.-noon: Children’s games with themes of Sartell’s past, face-painting, kite-flying and story time.

From 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m.: Performance by the Riverside Jazz Band.

At 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Trolley rides will start during those times from the Sartell Community Center. The guided tour will visit the many historical sites in the city. But seating is limited so people should register to reserve aseat ahead of time. To register, call Ann

at 320-253-4036, option 1; or email Ann at doyscher-domres@sartell.k12.mn.us.

All through the day there will be a display of historical artifacts that help tell the story of the people, places and traditions of Sartell’s 100-plus years of history. There will be people available who are highly knowledgeable about aspects of Sartell history, including early economic bedrocks of DeZurik valve company, the Watab Paper Mill, the annual Winter Haven celebration, the early beginnings of the Sartell School District, the early days of the Sartell Fire Department and Police Department, the little-known McCann Ice Business (river ice), Sartell’s founding families and much more. Historical videos and video interviews will also be available for viewing.

There will be birthday cake, cookies, coffee and punch served, and participants can register for door prizes.

“This will be a great opportunity to learn about Sartell as we celebrate an important milestone and support the Sartell Historical Society,” Morgan said.



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‘Bark to Future’ raises record amount

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The staff and friends of the Tri-County Humane Society are ecstatic about the resounding success of “Bark to the Future,” the biggest annual fundraiser for the organization.

The walking event for both people and their pets came within a hair’s breadth of its goal – \$60,000, with \$55,500 raised at last count, said Kate Kompas, volunteer and events coordinator for the TCHS.

“We were pleased as punch,” she said. “It’s a new record for us.”

The \$60,000 goal was the highest set in the 30-year history of the annual walkathon fundraiser. The money will be used for day-to-day general operations, Kompas noted. More fundraising efforts are ongoing with hopes of raising money for a TCHS shelter expansion project.

This year’s event, which took place Sept. 8 once again at Wilson Park in St. Cloud, was dubbed “Bark to the Future,” a nod to the popular 1980s movie “Back to the Future.” In the park, there were many 1980s-themed games and the presence of two vintage DeLoorean cars, like the one used in the famous movie.

Kompas noted the turnout for both people and dogs was exceptional this time, with 655 people participating along with 361 dogs. That’s 200 more peo-



photo by Dennis Dalman

Kristi and Mel Merdan of Sartell hold their beloved dogs Zoe (left) and Bella just before the start of the pet/people walk Sept. 8 at Wilson Park in St. Cloud. Now in its 30th year, this fundraising walk was dubbed “Bark to the Future,” a pun on the 1980s movie “Back to the Future.” The goal this year was to raise \$60,000 for the Tri-County Humane Society.

ple than last year and 100 more dogs.

The TCHS adoption rate has steadily increased throughout the years and now hovers in the mid-90 percent range. In 2017, the organization, staffed mainly with volunteers, adopted out 2,746 animals. It placed 1,208 animals with foster-care volun-

teers, and it spayed/neutered 1,699 animals. It also hosted 45 spay/neuter clinics in the area, not to mention many educational outreach programs.

For more information about TCHS, how to adopt, how to donate or how to volunteer, visit to tricityhumanesociety.org.

Cruising to class



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Jack Hill, 10, (left) and his brother Will, 12, ride their bikes to school Sept. 11 in Sartell. It takes them 30 minutes to get to school, but that doesn't prevent them from making the trek at least twice a week.

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Senior Safety presentation set for Sept. 27

A Senior Safety Presentation will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27 at the Sartell Senior Center, in the Sartell Community Center.

All are welcome to attend. The outreach presentation is sponsored by the Sartell Police Department in conjunction with the Sartell Senior Connection. At the meeting, police officers and

the community-service officers will give seniors tips on how to remain safe in a number of ways.

At the last council meeting, Sartell Police Chief Jim Hughes said he wanted people to be aware that an earlier online announcement of the Senior Safety Presentation was incorrectly stated as Sept. 22 rather than the accurate date, Sept. 27.

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.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

After clearing the land, a concrete slab will allow outdoor dining behind River Boat Depot.

River Boat plans to add outdoor dining patio

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The River Boat Depot bar/restaurant in Sartell plans to add outdoor, river's-edge dining starting next spring.

The Sartell City Council approved an interim-use permit for that purpose at its last meeting. The request to the council was submitted by Brian Johnstone,

co-owner of the business at 2 Riverside Drive.

The Sartell Planning Commission earlier voted to recommend approval by the council.

According to the interim-use permit application, Johnstone plans to lay a slab of concrete behind the River Boat Depot as early as this fall. The patio will be able to accommodate seven tables, two to four chairs per table, and up to

20 diners.

River Boat Depot, which opened nearly 30 years ago, is located just south of Veterans Park on a bluff above the Mississippi River. From the patio area, there will be views of the old city bridge, the former paper-mill site across the river and the hydroelectric dam.

Business hours for the patio will be from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. It will be closed in the winter months.



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Sheriff

from front page

The sheriff manages an annual budget of more than \$20 million – half of it to operate the jail. The sheriff supervises more than 200 employees including deputies, dispatchers, correctional officers and support staff. The dispatch center answers more than a quar-

ter-million phone calls a year. The jail booked 7,785 prisoners in 2017.

The county board will set the starting salary for the new sheriff in January. After that, the sheriff will be on the county's pay grid and he will get increases the same as other county employees. Gudmundson's pay was set at about \$158,000 this year.

Bentrud calls the relationship between the sheriff's office

and the county's 12 police departments "strained."

"I've been outside the agency and seeing how it interacts," Bentrud said. "I understand the issues and see how I can address them. There's a sense of disconnect east end vs. west end. The county line doesn't end just west of St. Joseph."

Soyka offers a similar observation. "When I started campaigning, I talked to city councils and police chiefs. They

want to talk about how we are doing as a sheriff's office," Soyka said. He stressed direct communication with citizens and leading deputies who want to stop and visit with residents and business people. "Go in there, introduce yourself and say 'hi,'" Soyka says.

Both men have their own plans on how they would improve communication.

Soyka says he'd visit town board and city council meetings, continue the sheriff's office weekly newsletter, improve the website and personally conduct town-hall style meetings to answer questions.

"I want to be out there with the people," Soyka said.

Bentrud suggests a deputy or supervisor attend every township or city council meeting once or twice a year. Setting up substations in the west side of the county would allow citizens to meet deputies there to report crimes and complete paperwork instead of driving into St. Cloud. Years ago, there were substations in several western cities, but those facilities closed.

Bentrud also offered a technological solution of having deputies muster remotely via computer instead of driving into St. Cloud to begin their shifts.

Beyond the communication and cooperation issue, Bentrud and Soyka offer different visions of being sheriff.

Both men have degrees in criminal justice; Soyka graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1992 and Bentrud graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 1991 and later completed a master's at St. Cloud State in 1996.

Soyka's 27 years in law enforcement have all been in a sheriff's department, including getting his start as an Explorer. As a result, he says, he's familiar with responsibilities beyond patrol including the jail, communications and special services such as water patrol.

"I can take off on Day One," Soyka said.

Bentrud wants to promote more effective cooperation between the sheriff's office and local police departments.

One way to help city cops and police work together is to replace the 20-year-old records system to make sharing crime data easier and bring more focus to patrolling.

"We're after the same bad guys," Bentrud said. "There can't be a data island."

Right now, the St. Cloud Police Department and the sheriff's office work on two separate computer records systems. Bentrud wants a regional system to replace the current system he calls "archaic" that costs the city and county \$300,000 per year to operate.

"New systems are more affordable and cheaper to maintain and allow us to be more fo-

cused on where we patrol and how we investigate," Bentrud said. "Stearns County is way too big for randomly driving around."

Soyka zeroed in on the personnel issue: recruiting deputies and correctional officers.

"We need to hire the right people who can adapt to different worlds" of addressing the diverse law enforcement issues in rural and urban areas of the county, Soyka said. "There are not as many people interested in law enforcement careers."

He wants to set up a recruitment team to visit schools with criminal-justice programs.

"I want to get our sheriff's office to a place where we have 400 people applying for jobs," Soyka said.

Both candidates said recruiting and retaining jail staff is a problem that affects employee morale, costs overtime and leads to employee burnout.

"The No. 1 issue is staffing of jail officers," Bentrud said.

Once hired, Soyka wants employees to find a "change in philosophy" with more teamwork and more interaction between deputies and correctional officers and supervisors.

"I'm here to listen, but to be honest with people," Soyka said. He wants employees to offer up what he calls "real-life solutions" to problems.

Soyka's leadership roles include team commander for Benton-Stearns SWAT and commander of the Central Minnesota Violent Offenders Task Force. The task force investigates narcotics, prostitution, gangs and other violent offenses. The team is made up of deputies from Stearns, Sherburne, Benton, Morrison and Todd counties as well as officers from Sartell, St. Cloud and Little Falls.

Bentrud has been instrumental in a multi-jurisdictional effort to stem sex trafficking that started about eight years ago. With Stearns County Attorney Janelle Kendall, Bentrud has spoken to public officials, educators, business people and advocates to "pull back the curtain" on the sex-trafficking problem.

"As a region we need to come together to address this," Bentrud said. "We were able to show it's a big deal." Funded by grants, the sex-trafficking task force has hired two investigators to focus on the crimes and started a shelter for women.

If Soyka is elected, he wants a more community-oriented sheriff's office that connects with the citizens.

"We need to let people know what we're doing," he said.

Bentrud says he enjoys being a problem-solver and he wants to address the issues of collaboration and cooperation.

This fall's election will determine the mission and strategies for at least the next four years.



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Opinion

Our View

Census, redistricting questions are hidden election issues

The future of Minnesota's representation in the next decade will be decided with this fall's elections and with decisions being made now about how Census 2020 will be conducted.

How many members of Congress Minnesota will have and how their districts will be drawn will be determined by the census. The decennial count also affects drawing boundaries for other elected offices too, such as the legislature and county and city government.

The key census issue, should there be a citizenship question, is being debated now. Who draws the lines for congressional and legislative districts will be decided by which party controls the governor's office and the legislation.

Although these issues are not on the ballot this fall, they will be decided by who gets elected.

Republicans have proposed a citizenship question on the census form. That question hasn't been asked since 1950 when it was followed by a question asking if the person was naturalized. The census is supposed to be a head count...how many people live here...not a count of citizens. The count is used to determine many government policies and funding as well as the number of congressional seats.

Because of national population growth and shifts, Minnesota is in danger of losing one of its eight congressional seats. There are 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and each state is allotted a portion of these seats based on the size of its population relative to the other states.

Opponents of the citizenship question also assert it might scare off legal immigrants and new citizens who are distrustful of government. That's a very legitimate fear considering Donald Trump's deportation obsession.

The first of six potential lawsuits about the citizenship question is scheduled to start Nov. 5 in New York, the day before the general election. Three other cases are scheduled for January. With expected appeals, the legal battle could run right up to census time.

The citizenship question should not be on the 2020 form.

Closely linked to the census is redistricting. Based on the head count, governments draw boundaries for representation.

In Minnesota, the state legislature has constitutional responsibility for redistricting congressional districts, as well as Minnesota Senate and House districts. Local governments are responsible for redistricting other election districts. Those lines are drawn based on census data which shows how many people live where.

The Supreme Court set down rules for interpreting the provisions on redistricting: equal population; contiguous and compact districts; no attempts to either congregate or divide minority groups; and keeping cities, towns and communities of interest together.

Under the Minnesota Constitution and past practices, the state Legislature — which in reality means the party in the majority — gets to decide where the lines are drawn. If there is partisan advantage to be taken, the majority party will take it. When power is divided, as it was during the last two census cycles, the court has had to step in and play mapmaker.

The website fivethirtyeight.com offers a look at what Minnesota's districts would look like without overt political interference.

In a perfect world, the lines would be drawn so no party has an unfair advantage. Several cases challenging district maps that unfairly favor one party or the other have reached the U.S. Supreme Court. The problem would be solved by each state appointing a bipartisan commission to draw the lines.

In a less-than-perfect world, if control of the governor's office and the legislature is split between parties, we'd end up with a bipartisan or judicial solution.

When you vote this fall, you are voting for more than candidates. You're voting for how Minnesota will be governed for the next decade.

Should sheriffs be elected or appointed?

Mike Knaak

Editor



have a jail, Sheriff Edelbrock took the prisoner to the Hennepin County Jail. Clemens the sailor escaped and in Stearns County's first case of getting away with murder, he was not recaptured. But even though Hennepin County lost the prisoner, Hennepin County commissioners found the nerve to bill Stearns County for his room and board.

This past week, I interviewed the two men running this year for Stearns sheriff. Dave Bentrud and Steve Soyka offer voters years of law enforcement experience along with different visions for leading the sheriff's office.

Our conversations covered topics ranging from human relations to technology to budgeting in addition to basics of law enforcement.

Their impressive knowledge and experience reminded me that we haven't always elected sheriffs. During the interview, Bentrud and Soyka displayed a depth and breadth of knowledge required of few other elected officials. And despite the rapid turnover and early management issues in the 1850s, perhaps we should return to appointed sheriffs.

Most elected officials deal with setting policies and strategic goals. They don't need a deep education and experience to serve because they hire

staff with special expertise to execute the policies.

Mayors hire city managers and police chiefs. School boards hire superintendents. Governors appoint experts in finance and transportation. Members of Congress hire staff with expertise in intelligence, defense and foreign affairs.

Just having good ideas for policy doesn't guarantee you'd be a good sheriff. A sheriff needs academic training and experience on the street to do the job.

Since 1973, Minnesota Statutes allow a county to appoint an auditor, treasurer, sheriff or recorder if approved by voters in a referendum.

Maybe it's time to consider an appointed sheriff.

Electing a sheriff gives voters a voice in their government, a connection to law enforcement and a way to hold law enforcement directly accountable that is deeply rooted in Anglo-Saxon tradition.

The role of sheriff began in England and moved across the Atlantic to the colonies.

Americans continued the practice of electing sheriffs and affirmed the common-law powers of the sheriff, especially autonomy and independence. In 1878, Congress passed the Posse Comitatus Act, setting down the rules of law enforcement.

Legally, little has changed since then. So maybe it's time to return to the pre-statehood practice and take advantage of the provisions in the 1973 law to appoint a sheriff.

All work and no pay makes Jack a dull boy

Patric Lewandowski

Guest Writer



can't tell you how many times I've been offered a job that wouldn't pay me actual money, but promised to be a "great learning experience," or a "fantastic portfolio piece" and even "a labor of love" and "good exposure."

As acclaimed cartoonist Rich Stevens has said, "people die of exposure."

The creative professions require training and skill as much as any other, so why do people think they don't need to pay for the fruits of that labor? The people who do these jobs need to eat, pay bills and live. Creating art and content is a job. We don't ask any other profession to do their work for free, so why the creatives?

Recently, *The Newsleaders* has begun providing small daily news stories on its website for a nominal fee. These are stories that are unlikely to reach the print edition because of timeliness. We will also start providing more rich multi-me-

dia content on our site, such as more photo galleries and video. *The Newsleaders* has been a free news source for nearly all of its 30-year history, but that doesn't mean the people who create it work for free. This is our job. Just like you go to work, we come to work and make a newspaper. It's distributed to you for no cost because our business model so far has been to generate revenue solely through ad sales. All of us who work here do it to support our families just like you work to support yours. We want to provide you with more news more frequently, but we need to get paid to do that, hence our new subscription content.

It should be reiterated that all the usual free content is still free online; all the stories that appear in the paper, obituaries, blotter and public notices. Besides the more frequent daily news and multi-media content, subscribers also can download a PDF of the paper, something we haven't provided for nearly a year.

Work has value. Your work has value and so does mine. Art is a "real job" as much as being a teacher, lawyer or a factory worker is. Still, I'd love a third story on my house... no pay, but great exposure.

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Rediscovering the thrill of driving at 19

This past weekend, I was able to head back home for the first time after moving into college almost a month ago. The time has really flown by, and it sometimes still feels odd to have been living in a new place for a while. I didn’t bring a car with to campus, and so my dad picked me up outside the dorm before handing over the keys. Taking the wheel, I realized I hadn’t driven in almost a month. That was a shocking realization, considering how constant driving has been to me since I turned 16.

It’s been three years now since I obtained my driver’s license, in September of 2015, and I remember that feeling of nervousness turned to excitement as the DVS tester announced I had passed the road test. Months of classes and logging driving hours had finally paid off, and that freedom of

driving a car that people here in the United States always talk about was finally accessible to me.

This is not to say I was going to go crazy with this newfound privilege. Driving is a serious matter, especially considering the prevalence of car accidents. I made sure to always know where I was going, obey speed limits and stay aware when dealing with other drivers. My phone, as common sense dictates, would stay in my pocket.

Covering for safety, the possibilities and autonomy allowed by driving were endless. There was no more having to rely on a parent for pickup following an extracurricular activity after school. I could get a regular job and have a schedule of my own to follow to get there on time. I could run errands if I needed to without asking for someone to drive me there. It was a truly

Connor Kockler

Guest Writer



liberating feeling.

Since this is so ingrained into our culture, the driving age of 16 and ensuing freedom that results through the end of high school, I think we can almost take it for granted. When I visited Germany last summer, I experienced a very different world than what we have here. To start, their driving age is 18, and their hour and monetary commitments are much heavier than ours. This includes a first-aid course, required class time instruction, theory and road test, and an average cost of almost \$2,000 U.S.

As a result, and since Germany is in many ways a more ur-

banized, compact country than us, many young people have little to no need for driver’s licenses. Especially in the big cities, many options of public transportation are used instead. Many never get that “joy of the open road” early in life and some don’t even purchase a car.

And that might be a growing trend here, as some studies have shown the number of high schoolers getting driver’s licenses has fallen during the last few years. That’s a statistic that really stood out to me, considering my own feelings about driving. I suppose some might say lazy young people may be blamed, but the requirements and cost of obtaining a license have gone up steadily throughout the years, and so it might no longer be practical for some, especially with alternatives growing in many places.

From my point of view, driv-

ing, ever since Henry Ford put in within reach of the masses with the Model T, is a quintessentially American tradition. It extends from our national character. We are ambitious, fun-loving and adventurous people, and so being able to go from place to place made us even more autonomous than before. Traditions such as road trips and camping were developed from those first cars, and have been a part of the national fabric ever since. So the next time you turn those keys into the ignition, be sure to remember your first experience behind the wheel, that thrill of newfound freedom. I do, and it’s a memory I will always have with me.

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

Letters to the editor

Reader urges to vote Peterson for Sartell mayor

Glenn Persen, Sartell

Staying current, forward planning and being steady yet responsible defines David Peterson.

David has represented Sartell on the city council for almost 12 years and has seen a great deal of changes during that

time. “Sartell is a growing community. People want to move here and raise their families and start businesses,” Peterson said.

Rapid growth has created enormous challenges and listening to the concerns of our citizens and working responsibly to resolve these concerns is

vital. In addition to serving Sartell, David also dedicates time – serving in the Army National Guard for nearly 19 years and currently a lieutenant colonel – to this great country we are all fortunate to call home. He has done tours in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

David is an attorney and

works for the Veterans Administration in the HR department. He cherishes the time he spends with his wife Kristina and two children Devin and Lauren by being involved in sports, photography, tinkering with cars, shooting clay targets, boating and fishing, and taking an Adopt a Street in Sartell.

His concern for the city budget, schools and senior citizens is apparent.

David has the experience, dedication and proven leadership qualities required to be mayor of the city of Sartell.

Please vote David Peterson for mayor on Nov. 6.

Change needed in District 13B, vote Everett

Barb Nelson, Sartell

If the political scene in Minnesota is ever going to change, then a change in the personal makeup of the legislature needs to change. Legislators on both sides feel what they are proposing and enacting is best for the people of Minnesota.

Unfortunately, the Republicans believe the following: eliminate health care for thou-

sands by destroying the Affordable Care Act in favor of big insurance companies, which also includes the proposal to exclude people who have pre-existing conditions; education – cutting \$500 million from school funding, resulting in larger class sizes; transportation – taking miserly amounts of money from the general fund to fix a bloated and inadequate highway system; mini-

mum wage – refusing to raise the minimum wage resulting in people having to work two and three jobs to make ends meet.

All these obstacles to progress and improvement for Minnesota have resulted in gridlock, back-biting, finger-pointing and a do-nothing legislature controlled by Republicans in the House and Senate.

A dramatic change is needed in Minnesota, and that can start

here in House District 13B by electing Heidi Everett. Her campaign slogan is “Civility In Action.” Civility in action means establishing affordable quality health care, fighting for livable wages, fully funding pre-K-12 education, preserving human rights, protecting Minnesota’s natural resources and creating sustainable revenue for roads, bridges and water systems.

Heidi is currently a profes-

sor of communications and journalism. She has spent 25 years in marketing communications for higher education and business. She is well qualified to articulate and advocate for measures that will improve the quality for all the people in Minnesota.

She deserves the votes from all residents in House District 13B.

Soyka has sheriff’s department experience

Richard Soyka, Sauk Rapids

The primary voting is over. Steve Soyka was first for Stearns sheriff. Only one candidate remains for Stearns County sheriff who has sheriff-department experience.

That is Patrol Sgt. Steve Soyka. He previously had four years with the Benton County Sheriff Department and currently has 23 years with the Stearns County Sheriff Department.

His opponent has NO coun-

ty sheriff department experience. As a retired Benton County commissioner, I know the Sheriff Department experience counts heavily for someone to be sheriff. In the upcoming general election, who would you rather have as your

sheriff – someone without any sheriff-department experience or someone with 27 years of sheriff department experience?

Patrol Sgt. Steve Soyka is the obvious choice to be your Stearns County sheriff. Re-

member the three S’s when you vote for Stearns County sheriff in the upcoming general election: Stearns, Sheriff, Soyka.

As Steve’s dad, I thank you, in advance, for voting for Steve Soyka as Stearns sheriff.

Former chief endorses Bentrud for county sheriff

Bob Ringstrom, St. Joseph

My name is Bob Ringstrom, retired Police Chief of Sartell. I strongly endorse Dave Bentrud to be elected as the Sheriff of Stearns County.

I first met Dave when he was a St. Cloud police patrol officer. He was promoted to sergeant in

the St Cloud Police Department where I had the opportunity to coordinate with him professionally on criminal and social challenges common to both of our jurisdictions. As the police chief of Waite Park, his reputation is one of open honesty. Dave is highly principled and entirely above reproach. You

can trust this guy to do the right thing.

Since his early childhood in Central Minnesota, Dave has been on a path of continuing personal and professional growth. He has performed well as a patrol officer, supervisor, trainer, coach, academic instructor, innovator and social

advocate for crime victims as well as for the misdirected violators. As sheriff, Dave Bentrud will be able to bridge relationships across organizational and bureaucratic boundaries. He has polished his personal and professional talents across all spectrums and levels of educational achievement.

Join me in supporting Chief Dave Bentrud to be our Stearns County sheriff. His qualifications run deep with critical experience and professional character. Dave Bentrud has the traits of a proven leader and the capacity to serve Stearns County law enforcement at the highest level.

School

from front page

reading the score was 14 percent higher.

In the area of academic progress, students in the district again showed higher performance than state results on a student growth matrix; 2.59 compared with the state average of 2.13 in math, and 2.50 compared with the state average of 2.39. Only in the area of progress in English learner proficiency did the district score lower than state results.

In the area of graduation rates, the guidelines were to have a graduation rate of 90 percent with no student group having less than an 85 percent rate. The state average did not meet the guidelines (82.42 percent across the state). The Sartell-St. Stephen district greatly exceeded the guidelines with nearly 98 percent of students graduating on time after four years.

Consistency in attendance was lower than the guideline rate of 95 percent with no student group lower than 90 percent attendance. District 748 attendance scored at 91 percent with state results at 86 percent.

Two schools, Pine Meadow and Sartell Middle School received special recognition for being in the top 5 percent in Minnesota for progress made in various categories such as multi-racial math progress.

In the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment results, the district scored significantly higher across the board with scores that were as much as 20 percent higher than state averages. These scores are compared grade by grade. In fifth grade mathematics for example the district scored 78.3 per-

cent overall proficiency while the state average was 54.7 percent. In math, reading and science, the district scored higher than state averages.

The ACT is a test that measures college readiness of students about to graduate in four benchmark areas; math, reading, English and science. Overall, the district met all four areas with 52 percent of graduates considered ready for college.

The assessment results were followed by principals of the various schools detailing how each school had fared in meeting results of the 2017-18 Continuous Improvement Goals which were set within the district. At all levels, K-12, there were goals that had not been achieved and modifications were proposed so better results could be achieved in the 2018-19 school year. The purpose of the continuous improvement goals is to strive for improvement. For example one goal was to have 100-percent graduation of all students. The likelihood of achieving the goal is low, but with changes in methodology and curriculum, improvements can be made and steps taken toward reaching the goal.

"If we keep writing goals and getting the same result, we need to make some changes," said Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert.

Other reports

Schwiebert reported an increase in enrollment for 2018-19 school year of about 118 students. This is not a final number however. The increase would give the district a bit more money in the budget for the coming year said Schwiebert. Schwiebert noted one curious occurrence is a large number of students coming to Sartell from out of state. Part of this

might be due to a heated economy and people moving to areas where they can find work. One area is the St. Cloud- Sartell area.

Pine Meadow and the middle school have the biggest growth areas, Schwiebert said.

Project manager Lee Gruen reported construction of the new high-school has continued to show overall progress, and maintained the current schedule. With about 110 workers on site every day, progress toward a late July 2019 finish of construction remains a probability. The construction budget is still on pace with no unexpected costs incurred.

Action items

The board took the following actions:

- Approved a resolution for hiring new personnel;
- Approved the Minnesota Trust Resolution that will allow the district to have an additional option for investing district funds in order to ensure the best possible rate of return;
- Approved the revision of six board policies including 404-Employment Background Checks, 418-Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School, 419-Tobacco-Free Environment, 420-Students And Employees With Sexually Transmitted Infections And Diseases And Certain Other Communicable Diseases And Infectious Conditions, 424-License Status, 427-Workload Limits For Certain Special-Education Teachers;
- Approved lease agreements with Pinecone Central Park St. Cloud Orthopedics Field (formerly Champion Field) and Pinecone Central Park Soccer Field;
- Approved preliminary 2018-19 levy. The levy 2018 is payable 2019 and is revenue for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.



photos by Dave DeMars

Marie Pangerl, district assessment coordinator, leads the board through a discussion of the 2017-18 District Assessment Results.



Student Lauren Lindmeier makes her first presentation to the school board at the Sept. 17 meeting. Lindmeier, along with students Yash Hindka and Elijah Lawson, will be the student liaisons to the board keeping them abreast of the student events and happenings at each of the schools within the district.



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