

# Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Dec. 28, 2018  
Volume 23, Issue 36  
Est. 1995

## Town Crier

### Knights' Freethrow Contest to be Saturday, Jan. 12

All girls and boys ages 9-14 in the Sartell/St. Stephen community are invited to the local level of competition for the 2019 Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship. The local competition will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12 in St. Francis Xavier School, 219 Second St. N. This event is sponsored annually by the Knights of Columbus with winners from the local level advancing to district, region and state competitions. All contestants from the local level are recognized for their participation in the event and the winners at each level receive a trophy. Participants register at the event and must have written consent and age verification from a parent or guardian. Contact Jake Schneider at 320-761-7143 with any questions.

### St. Stephen newsletter postponed to Jan. 11

The City of Sartell January newsletter, which normally would be inserted in this edition of the Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader, will be inserted in the Jan. 11 edition of the Newsleader instead. St. Stephen residents should look for it then.

### 2019 school levy approved by board

The Sartell-St. Stephen school board approved the district's levy for taxes payable in 2019 following its truth in taxation hearing Dec. 17.

The levy totals \$10,194,085.83, an increase of 4.08 percent. The vote was unanimous.

For the owner of a \$250,000 home with no change in assessed value, the tax will be \$1,425, a drop of 1.86 percent from this year's school tax bill.

### Next year's school calendar approved

Next year's Sartell-St. Stephen school district calendar is all set. The school board approved the calendar Dec. 17.

- Key dates:
- Sept. 3 school begins.
  - Oct. 17-18 for statewide teacher meetings, no school
  - March 23-27 spring break.
  - April 20 no school for grades nine-12 during the state student council convention. There will be class for grades kindergarten-eight.
  - May 25 no school Memorial Day.
  - May 29 last day of school for kindergarten through grade 12.
  - May 30 Graduation.

## A sweet deal: Donations match lemonade sales to raise \$2,600

by Cori Hilsgen  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell fourth-graders Lila Meyer and Taylor Drexel-Gainsforth and fifth-grader Violet Meyer recently sold lemonade to raise funds for hungry children.

They, along with parents Nicole and Kenny Meyer and Sara and Curt Draxler-Gainsforth, are members of Celebration Lutheran Church in Sartell.

After Lila, Taylor and Violet raised a total of \$36.50, Nicole suggested they donate the money to Feeding Area Children Together because she felt this was a way to help provide food to children in the area and the three girls could see how the funds helped other children.

When they dropped their donation off at Celebration Lutheran Church, the Rev. Jeff Sackett thought it was a sweet

gesture and informed the congregation about the donation by posting it on Facebook.

Another member, Kent Gehrke, saw the post and offered to match the \$36.50 and challenged others who saw the post to do the same. At the time, Gehrke thought it would be great if they could raise \$500.

Nobody could have predicted how the fundraiser would continue to grow. Soon, 44 families had accepted the challenge to match the original \$35.50.

Celebration Lutheran's office staff decided to open their own lemonade stand so people who stopped by to drop off their donations could enjoy a glass of lemonade.

On Nov. 14, Lila, Violet and Taylor stood in front of their peers and parents at Celebration Lutheran Church and

Donations • page 2



contributed photo

Sara Greenberg-Hassan (far left) from the Feeding Area Children Together organization accepts a donation in the amount of \$2,602 from Celebration Lutheran Church members (left to right) Lila Meyer, Taylor Drexel-Gainsforth and Violet Meyer. The money was raised through their summer lemonade stand and matched by other people.

## ConneX bus curbside pick-up service to start Jan. 2

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

A bus ride will soon be just a phone call away in Sartell. The new Metro Bus on-demand service pilot program called ConneX will start in the city Wednesday, Jan. 2.

The pilot program is expected to last until June 30, 2019, at which time it will be evaluated for efficiency and success and possibly extended indefinitely.

ConneX works like this: Someone who needs a bus ride will call a Metro Bus number about an hour ahead of time to request a ride, and that person will be given a pick-up time when the bus will arrive. The bus will stop at the curbside

nearest the pick-up address and/or requested destination. The pick-up times given to the caller will vary based on demand for a particular time of day. The pick-up number to call is 320-251-RIDE.

ConneX will replace fixed-route 32 in Sartell. Riders of ConneX will be able to get transfer rides out of Sartell via the buses that stop at Country Manor or Walmart in Epic Center in Sartell. The cost for a ride is \$1.25, same as for the previous fixed-route service. Children 5 and under can ride free. Transfer tickets, which can be requested at time of pick-up, are valid for two hours from the time of issuance by the bus driver.

There will be two buses serving the ConneX service compared with just the one bus for former Route 32.

Another Metro Bus change starting in January is the other fixed-route service in Sartell (Route 31) which will be extended to serve the medical-campus area at Connecticut Avenue in southeast Sartell, as well as the CentraCare Health Plaza in St. Cloud, just across the road and to the south of the Sartell Medical Campus.

Riders using the ConneX service can transfer to the service after riding a fixed-route service by requesting a pick-up or drop-off after their fixed-route bus arrives at Country Manor

ConneX • page 3



contributed graphic

The area within the surrounding line shows the ConneX curbside pick-up service area in Sartell. The new service, which is a six-month pilot program, will begin Jan. 2 in Sartell.

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell-St. Stephen school board approved a retirement incentive program at the Dec. 17 meeting aimed at helping the district plug a hole in its operating budget after a levy failed last month.

To qualify for the program, teachers need 30 years of active teaching service or to have taught for 15 years and be between 55

and 65 as of June 30, 2018.

Interested teachers must submit notice for retirement to the superintendent prior to Feb. 1, 2019.

The district expects an operating shortfall of between \$1 million and \$1.5 million for next year, according to Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert.

Schwiebert said he anticipates between two and 10 teachers will take advantage of the offer allowing the district to make program-

ming plans and possibly avoid layoffs.

"We don't want to cut people," Schwiebert said. Finding out retirement plans in February makes budgeting and planning easier.

The net expense saving with a retiring teacher is about \$40,000, he said.

If a teacher qualifies, the district will place \$6,600 in a Health Care Savings Plan with the Minnesota State Retirement System.

The incentive plan passed unanimously.

The school board conducted a series of community listening sessions on what to do next to deal with the levy defeat.

The district had asked voters to approve the levy to support the additional costs of operating the new high school as well as improve technology, maintain class size and support innovative learning programs.



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21 16th Ave. SE  
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# Donations

**from front page**

presented an oversized check in the amount of \$2,602 to Feeding Area Children Together volunteer board member Sarah Greenberg-Hassan.

The amount donated is enough to help feed 17 children for an entire school year during days that school is not in session.

"It's a lot of money," Lila said.

"Anyone can make a difference, it doesn't matter your age," Violet said.

"We never thought it would grow to be this big," Taylor said.

"I am so proud of these young ladies (who) have inspired so many out of their generosity," said Aaron Dow-

zak, director of Youth and Family Ministries-Middle School at Celebration Lutheran Church.

Feeding Area Children Together is dedicated to reducing childhood hunger in central Minnesota through a weekend backpack program, FACT Packs, crisis food shelf, FACT Pantry, and bi-annual, FACT Break Box initiatives.

The organization helps feed local children in St. Cloud school district including Discovery, Madison and North Junior High.

The organization has a waitlist of more than 200 children who struggle with food insecurity and who may not know where their next meal will come from.

Many children rely on the breakfasts and lunches they are fed at school. On weekends and holidays, families often struggle to provide enough food for

their children.

Feeding Area Children Together helps provide breakfast, lunch and a snack for each day that children are not in school. Menus are approved by a local pediatrician and contain a variety of fruits, vegetables and proteins to help provide healthy options.

Bags are packed by volunteers during the monthly FACT Pack nights and delivered to schools. Each FACT Pack is discreetly placed in student backpacks by volunteers on Fridays or the last day of school before break.

For more information or to donate to Feeding Area Children Together, contact Suzanne Friedrich Kuehl by email at [suzannefact@gmail.com](mailto:suzannefact@gmail.com) or through their Facebook page [facebook.com/stcloudfact](https://facebook.com/stcloudfact).

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*Reaching Everybody!*

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

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



# Community Calendar

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

**Friday, Dec. 28**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

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**WANTED TO BUY**  
Want to purchase minerals and other oil/gas interests. Send details to: P.O. Box 13557, Denver CO 80201(MCN)

**Thursday, Jan. 3**  
**Coffee and Conversation**, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Topic: Granite City Pest Control.

**Friday, Jan. 4**  
**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 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.

**Moonlight Ski,** 6-10 p.m., Quarry Park, 1802 CR 137, Waite Park. 4.2 miles of lighted trails. Bonfire, food, free parking, heated indoor gathering area. Hiking if snow is not adequate.

**Saturday, Jan. 5**  
**Sabre VEX EDR Robotics Tournament,** 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sartell Middle School.

**Sartell Christmas tree drop-off,** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sartell compost site. 30th Avenue and CR 4.

**Winter Market,** 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

marketmonday.org.

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

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

**Sartell-St. Stephen school board organizational meeting,** 6:30 p.m., District Service Center, 212 Third Avenue N., Sartell.

**Sartell-St. Stephen school board work session,** 7 p.m., District Service Center, 212 Third Avenue N., Sartell.

**Sartell Planning Commission,** 6:30-8 p.m., Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

**Tuesday, Jan. 8**  
**Sartell Chamber of Commerce,** 11:30 a.m., Waters Church, 1227 Pinecone Road. 320-258.6061. info@sartell-chamber.com.

**Central Minnesota Civil War Roundtable,** 9 a.m., "Detecting the 1862 U.S. Military Posts at Sauk Cen-

## CORRECTION

to the Dec. 14 Holiday Greeting page

*We hope your holidays abound with good cheer and good things!*

### ST. JOSEPH ROD & GUN CLUB

Duane Scepaniak, president  
P.O. Box 374, St. Joseph • 320-251-2881  
www.stjoerodandgunclub.org

# ConneX

## from front page

or the Sartell Walmart. They can also transfer, if they wish, to any fixed-route service that stops at those two places. Metro Bus routes 21 and 22 are the Sauk

Rapids area buses that also serve east Sartell and stop at Country Manor, said Berta Hartig, marketing and communications director for Metro Bus.

"ConneX is great for Sartell because that city was hard to serve with fixed-route buses," she said. "There are all kinds of culs-de-sac in Sartell and developments

tre," Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud.

**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. The group helps parents raising a child with mental illness learn coping skills and develop problem-solving skills. 320-654-1259.

**St. Stephen Planning Commision,** 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave. SE.

**Thursday, Jan. 10**  
**Coffee and Conversation**, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

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

**Friday, Jan. 11**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

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

**Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Contest,** 3 p.m., St. Francis Xavier school gymnasium for boys and girls 9-14. Contact Jake Schneider at 320-761-7143 or jakeschneider34@charter.net.

all over that make a fixed route difficult. With this new service, people will be able to call and get to where they want to go."

ConneX buses can accommodate service animals as well as wheelchairs. The service might also benefit some physically-challenged people who now use Metro Bus's Dial-a-Ride. That is because some of them might be able to be mobile enough to get to the nearest curb rather than be picked up right at their doors. Dial-a-Ride service costs \$2.50 so those who can manage to use ConneX would be able to save \$1.25 per ride.

Hours of service for ConneX will be 6:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Saturday and 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sunday.

Ride requests will be taken up to 15 minutes before the start of the service day and up until 15 minutes before the end of service.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CITY OF ST. STEPHEN

### AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 41: ZONING

### SUMMARY PUBLICATION

The City of St. Stephen has adopted an Amendment to the Ordinance 41: Zoning. The Amendment establishes standards and regulations for installation and maintenance of solar energy systems and wind energy conversion systems within the City of St. Stephen.

This publication is a summary of the Amendment to Ordinance 41. The full text of the amendment to Ordinance 41 is available for inspection by any person during reg-

ular office hours at the office of the St. Stephen City Clerk.

This Ordinance was adopted by the City Council of St. Stephen on Nov. 7, 2018, and shall be effective upon publication.

/s/ Jeff Blenkush, Mayor

/s/Cris Draiss, City Clerk

Publish: Dec. 28, 2018

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### CALL FOR BIDS

### SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN

### SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Sartell-St. Stephen School District Administration recommends the Board of Education authorize a Call for Bids for the following projects:

Audio Visual – Equipment, Programming, etc.

Sartell St. Stephen School District will receive sealed bids at the District Offices at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019. Plans will be available on or after Dec. 21, 2018. Contact the office of Bradbury Stamm Construction Winkelman LLC for document access; 320.253.2411 or lgruen@bradburystamm.com.

Publish: Dec. 28, 2018

**St. Stephen Optical**  
(formerly Index 53)

**Happy Holidays!**

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# YEAR IN *Review* 2018

## 2018 Year in Review

# Elections, school plans top 2018

### Jan. 5 edition

Volunteers who make Lions Community Park in Sartell an on-going reality were honored at a recent Sartell City Council meeting. Those honored are Kim Allar, Katie and Melissa Kitzmiller, Kris Menke, Bud and Lorna Nestel, Mitze Olson, Judy Pohlkamp, Diane Schellinger, Sue Tembrock and Adam, Kaye and Mary Wenker. Also honored was Lions member Karen Maruska, the leader of the Leo Lions.

Spoken glimpses into Sartell's past can be heard and seen on the city of Sartell's website. Residents in video presentations reminisce about various aspects of the city, including the East Side, the School District, the Police Department and Rivertown.

### Jan. 12 edition

Young entrepreneur and visionary Alex Bertsch of Sartell is being honored as one of the two winners in the third annual "2 Under 20" awards by the St. Cloud Times. Bertsch, the son of Carolyn and Matt Bertsch, is a senior at Sartell High School.

An intolerable stench in the vicinity of Sartell's sanitary-sewer system's lift station 1 just might be solved, at long last – or so the city council and others, with noses pinched, are hoping. The council approved two proposals that might bring a fix.

### Jan. 19 edition

The name of another priest has been added to a list of about 40 area Catholic clergy "likely to have abused minors," according to a recent announcement from Bishop Donald Kettler, head of the Diocese of St. Cloud. The Rev. Antonio Marfori, who was ordained in 1978 at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud. Marfori has had two complaints against him. The first was filed in 2015, the second in 2016.

### Jan. 26 edition

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

### Feb. 2 edition

An energetic, loud, rambunctious pep rally at Sartell Middle School Jan. 26 suddenly morphed into a big win for fifth-grader Sophie Lathe. Lathe was one of four students chosen to participate in a Disney-themed version of the TV game show Jeopardy.

It's a rare honor for somebody at the age of 85 to be inducted into a Hall of Fame, but that's what happened to Don Reedstrom of Sartell. He is now one of 33 former athletes inducted into the Sauk Rapids High School Storm Athletic Hall of Fame.

### Feb. 9 edition

Award-winning artist Jabreel Abdi of Sartell loves to extend his cultural horizons in directions that lead him to new ideas, new techniques, new styles. Abdi, a graduate of Sartell High School, recently won first place in an art contest titled "Be HumanKIND: A Way to Honor Community Healing."

Entering the home of Jack and Suzanne Toftey in Sartell is a bit like entering an enchanting storybook world that causes visitors to smile and sometimes chuckle

and laugh with wonderment. Everywhere on display are whimsical bowls, plates, paintings and wood-carved figures, and each one of them evokes the magical delights of Norwegian folk scenes.

### Feb. 16 edition

Students in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district are learning about hamsters, hamster dances and more as they participate in the One District, One Book program.

### Feb. 23 edition

Sartell-St. Stephen High School's dance team successfully defended their 2017 high-kick title at this year's State Dance Team Tournament on Feb. 16-17 in Minneapolis. The Sabres won their second consecutive championship in the Class AA high-kick contest on Saturday. The title was the team's fourth in high kick.

### March 2 edition

In its first year at the Sartell Community Center, the Community Showcase drew a record crowd Saturday, Feb. 24. More than 1,800 attended this year's event compared with an average of about 1,300 in past years when the showcase was staged at Sartell Middle School.

### March 9 edition

The highlight of the Feb. 26 school board meeting was the presentation of members of the Sartell High School Student Council requesting the board permit them to host the 2020 Minnesota Association of Student Councils-Minnesota Association of Honor Societies State Convention.

A comprehensive plan to protect Sartell's drinking water supply was approved by the city council at its Feb. 26 meeting.

### March 16 edition

A community problem that advocates say is largely hidden will soon get a highly visible solution. Pathways 4 Youth, a resource center founded by central Minnesota's Rotary clubs, will open for clients the week of March 26.

### March 23 edition

A lake-and-river drawdown meeting that will affect hundreds of Sartell residents will be the topic of a public meeting scheduled from 7-9 p.m. March 28. About 850 residential river lots north of the Sartell dam will be affected to some degree by the drawdown, which will begin Aug. 1 and continue until Sept. 15.

A march is planned in Sartell for March 24, as part of the national March for Our Lives movement. The Sartell march will start at 10 a.m. at Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N., and end at First United Methodist Church.

### March 30 edition

Seeking solutions to gun violence, about 300 people participated in Sartell's March for Our Lives Saturday, March 24. The demonstration, organized by Angie Trulson of Sartell, started with a rally at Sartell City Hall.

### April 6 edition

A group of people is determined to start a renewed Sartell Historical Society. One of them is distinguished historian and author Bill Morgan of Sartell. Morgan, his wife Judy and about eight others have been meeting, brainstorming and trying to form a plan of action to

form a historical society.

### April 13 edition

Longtime Sartell City Council member David Peterson announced he intends to file for mayor in the Nov. 6 general election

The city of Sartell is in excellent fiscal shape, according to an audit summary delivered to the city council at its April 9 meeting.

### April 20 edition

Sartell's Knowledge Bowl team won this year's Class AA championship at the state meet in Brainerd April 12-13. Team members are Janagan Ramanathan, Nathan Schmidt, Jacob Fandel, Yash Hindka and Mohannad Alkhatib. Luke Walker coaches the team.

### April 27 edition

As they have for the past 30 years, dancers took the floor for the Sartell Community Education dance show on April 21.

### May 4 edition

Two Sartell residents, Zurya Anjum and Itoero Emmanuel, are being honored in a traveling exhibit dubbed Green Card Voices, which is now prominently on display in the lobby of the Sartell Community Center.

First United Methodist Church announced plans for a Garden Sanctuary as part of the church's master plan.

### May 11 edition

Singer/storyteller Charlie Roth cast a campfire spell May 8 at the 10th annual Lemonade and Laughter concert in Sartell.

Glaring yard lights and dirt piles. Those two issues caused concern to Sartell City Council members at their April 23 meeting. The topics were part of the updated Zoning and Landscaping Amendment in the Sartell City Code. The council voted 4-1 to approve the detailed amendment.

### May 18 edition

The Sartell City Council unanimously approved at its May 14 meeting spending up to \$13.12 million for a new public-safety building after getting a look at design plans. The new building will house the fire and police departments.

Sartell City Council member Ryan Fitzthum announced May 15 he will seek the position of mayor. Fitzthum is now serving his second year on the council.

### May 25 edition

Cuts in probationary personnel were among the actions taken by the Sartell-St. Stephen school board at its May 21 meeting. Depending on student numbers and other circumstances, some of the nonrenewed teachers may be rehired.

An artistic rendition of Sartell's paper mill will be up for sale starting May 25 at The Pantry at Rolling Green II mall in Sartell at the corner of Second Street S. and Pinecone Road.

A former college professor, a police officer and the Sartell American Legion commander – all of them veterans – will be three of the main speakers at the Sartell Memorial Day ceremony in Veterans Park. History author and former professor Bill Morgan of Sartell will be the keynote speaker.

### June 1 edition

Michelle Fischbach's resignation from the Minnesota Senate means there will be a special elec-

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tion this fall for Senate District 13. Fischbach resigned May 25 and took the oath of office for lieutenant governor, a post she’s legally held since January.

**June 15 edition**  
Sartell SummerFest 2018 lacked sunshine, but it brimmed with fun for thousands of people, including many-out-of-towners who gathered to enjoy the 28th annual event.

The Sartell Muskies amateur baseball team will celebrate its 40th season before the home game on June 20. The Muskies were founded in 1979.

**June 29 edition**  
At its June 19 regular meeting, the Sartell-St. Stephen school board received reports on the Community Survey. While the survey was considered a success, it was noted the number of respondents this year is down by about half. Eighty-six percent of respondents felt the level of services received for the dollars spent was well worth the cost.

**July 13 edition**  
By a unanimous vote, the Sartell City Council decided at its July 9 meeting to go ahead with the long-discussed drainage solution in the city’s Celebration neighborhood.

**July 27 edition**  
A proposed drawdown of Little Rock Lake and the Mississippi River north of the hydroelectric dam at Sartell has been postponed until next year.

The Sartell-St. Stephen school board voted on July 16 to implement the planned increase for additional revenue to finance school operations. The levy will appear on the November general election ballot.

St. Stephen Mayor Cindy VanderWeyst resigned on July 11 after the death of her mother. The City Council appointed council member Jeff Blenkush to be mayor.

**Aug. 10 edition**  
For the second consecutive time, the BankVista Rock ‘n’ Block concert was a big success in the huge parking lot to the south of Bernick’s Ice Arena. An estimated 1,500 people attended the concert Aug. 4.

**Aug. 24 edition**  
It’s been a long time coming, but plans for an ambitious street improvement project in east Sartell are now approaching a final form. At a public hearing during the Aug. 13 city council meeting, more than a dozen east-side residents voiced their concerns to the council.

Steve Soyka and Dave Benrud will compete for Stearns County sheriff in the Nov. 6 general election. Voters chose Soyka and Benrud from a four-candidate field in the Aug 14 primary election. Soyka finished with 7,346 votes followed by Benrud with 6,335 votes, Robert Dickhaus with 4,112 votes and Dwight Pfannenstien with 1,115.

**Sept. 7 edition**  
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.

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

## For additional news highlights from 2018, go to [www.thenewsleaders.com](http://www.thenewsleaders.com).

once again. The reason for the rejection is the bids had come in substantially in excess of the engineering estimate for the project.

**Sept. 21 edition**  
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.

At its regular Sept. 17 board meeting the Sartell-St. Stephen school board heard a good news report in the form of the 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.

**Oct. 5 edition**  
“What we want is for people to get as informed as they can be, and then to make an informed decision,” said Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert when talking about the upcoming Levy for Learning. The Levy for Learning is basically another name for an operational levy to allow the district to keep buildings in operation.

The investigation of Jacob Weterling’s 1989 abduction and killing “went off the rails” from the beginning and the sheriff at the time, Charlie Grafft, lost control of his investigation to the FBI in the first few weeks. That’s the judgment of current Stearns County Sheriff Don Gudmundson.

Before releasing more than 47,000 documents on Thursday, Sept. 20, Gudmundson presented a summary of the documents that in his view revealed 20 clues bungled by investigators that should have led them to Danny Heinrich.

**Oct. 19 edition**  
One of two current Sartell City Council members – Ryan Fitzthum and David Peterson – will be elected as the city’s new mayor in the Nov. 6 general election. Incumbent Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll decided not to file for re-election.

The Sartell-St. Stephen school district received a generally favorable report from KDVBERGAN Auditors at the Oct. 15 regular school board meeting. The only major misstep on the district’s part was that in the student activities account no established procedures existed that would provide assurance that all cash collections are recorded in the accounting records. In addition, the district’s student activity accounts did not have adequate segregation of accounting duties because of a limited number of office employees.

**Nov. 2 edition**  
Members of the Sartell City Council were treated at their Oct. 22 meeting to a preview of the proposed Sartell Public Facilities Building. The building, which could begin as early as next April, will be the new home for both the city’s fire department and its police department. The preview was in the form of an architectural video of what the building will look like, with stylized exterior views and interior layout of all of its features and functions.

A special election that will decide which party controls the Minnesota State Senate and a wide-open race for Stearns County sheriff are key races for Sartell and St. Stephen voters in the Nov. 6 general election. In House District 13B, Republican incumbent Tim O’Driscoll is being challenged by Democrat Heidi Everett. Sartell residents will elect a new mayor because incumbent Sarah Jane Nicoll is not seeking re-election. Current City Council members Ryan Fitzthum and David Peterson are running for mayor to serve a four-year term.

**Nov. 16 edition**  
After Sartell City Council member Ryan Fitzthum learned late in the evening of Nov. 6 that he will soon be called officially Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitzthum, he didn’t celebrate; he couldn’t. He had to be up at 9 a.m. the next day to fly to Las Vegas for a business convention about heavy machinery.

The votes are in and the leaders of the Sartell-St. Stephen school district are asking themselves what went awry with the attempt to pass an operations levy referendum in the district. The proposed levy was defeated by more than 1,600 votes.

Two candidates – Tim Elness and Jeff Kolb – were elected Nov. 6 to two seats on the Sartell City Council. They defeated two other candidates – Brady Anel and Barika Davis. Of the four, Elness received from voters in Sartell’s seven precincts the most votes – 3,571. Kolb received 3,205 votes, Anel garnered 3,016 votes, and Davis received 1,804.

**Nov. 16 edition**  
The Sartell-St. Stephen board members met in a working meeting to grapple with several questions related to the recent defeated operations levy: what happens now, where do we go from here and why did the levy fail. The next chance to try again to pass an operational levy will be in November 2019.

The operational revenue-expense balance of the new Sartell Community Center is going “extremely well and right on target,” said Sartell Finance Director Heidi Ostlie. Ostlie said both expenditures and revenues are just about where they are expected to be, based on projections during the planning of the center.

Once again, the lights around Lake Francis will sparkle and glimmer to delight young and old alike during the holiday season. The second annual Country Lights Festival will feature about 75,000-100,000 lights, many more than were used last year.

**Dec. 14 edition**  
Costs and communication led to the defeat of the Sartell-St. Stephen school district’s operating levy. That’s what about two dozen people gathered for the first of four community meetings told school leaders Dec. 6. Sartell-St. Stephen voters overwhelmingly rejected the levy in the Nov. 6 election. There were 3,230 yes votes and 4,924 no votes.

At a Dec. 10 public hearing, the Sartell City Council unanimously approved a city budget and tax levy for 2019 – one with a property tax that is about the same as last year’s. No members of the audience spoke at the public hearing.

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Opinion

Our View

Protect voter’s secret ballot

The secret ballot may not be so secret if Minnesota’s presidential preference primary goes ahead as planned.

The presidential primary law requires separate ballots for each political party, requires that all voters disclose to election officials the party ballot they choose and makes that data public record.

The primary will take place on the first Tuesday in March 2020. The presidential primary will not replace the primary for all other races conducted in August. The August primary and the November general elections would still be conducted without recording a party preference.

Unlike some states, Minnesotans don’t register to vote with a party preference. Even in primary elections, all parties’ candidates are on the same ballot so a voter’s party preference remains a secret. Publicly available election data only records your name, age, when and where you voted, not what party or candidate you vote for.

That tradition of privacy should be protected.

For years, Minnesotans have used precinct caucuses as the first step in choosing a presidential candidate. At the caucuses, delegates are chosen for district and eventually state political conventions. With the addition of the primary, caucuses will continue to conduct other party nominations and business, but parties would be bound by presidential primary results.

Precinct caucuses are run by the parties and when you attend, you have to pledge to support the party’s principles. But the presidential primary is run by the state and paid for by taxpayers.

There are several options for conducting the primary while keeping voters’ choices secret.

Secretary of State Steve Simon wants to conduct the presidential primary by mail.

Simon argues that under a mail balloting system, which is supported by counties and municipalities throughout Minnesota, every person registered to vote would receive by mail a ballot for the presidential nominating contest. To cast a ballot, voters would then be required to fill out and return their mail ballot by the day determined for the presidential primary. This would be functionally the same as those who chose to vote from home during the 2014, ‘16, or ‘18 election cycles.

Vote by mail could save millions of dollars in election administration costs, would allow voters to choose their party preference in the privacy of their own home, and has been shown in other states to increase voter participation.

“There is no good reason to require public disclosure of voters’ party preferences,” Simon said. “Minnesota’s voter registration system has never required a voter to state a party affiliation. Minnesota does not need to change a system that has worked so well for us for so many years.”

When the law was passed, the governor and both political parties supported collecting party preference data saying the national parties would not support the election outcome without it. The parties will find out who voted for their candidates and also who voted for the other party’s candidates.

A more costly way to protect privacy would be to include all parties’ candidates on a single ballot as is done with the August primary for local, state and federal races. All voters would receive the same ballot.

Either solution is preferable to capturing a voter’s party choice. The presidential primary law appears to be a back-door way of recording voters’ party preferences.

Contact your state legislators and urge them to work with Simon to change the law and protect Minnesotans’ secret ballot. Public disclosure should not be a part of the presidential primary law.

The ideas expressed in the letters to the editor and of-the-guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Newsleaders*.

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or mail to 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304. Deadline is noon Monday. Include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space.

Not all shoppers are created equal

There’s shopping and then there’s SHOPPING. The definition depends on what you mean by shopping.

I’m more of a lower-case shopper. By that I mean I go shopping when I need a specific item. So I’m more of a buyer than a shopper.,

I’m definitely not a SHOPPER... someone who likes to check out products and dream about what they’d buy and sometimes actually buy something.

Of course, both types of shopping has changed as online shopping threatens actual stores.

This year on Cyber Monday... the Monday after Black Friday...U.S. shoppers spent about \$7.9 billion, up almost 20 percent over 2017.

Will online stories ever replace traditional brick-and-mortar businesses? I don’t think so.

Online works great for buying commodities...items that are the same from store to store. For example, toner, paper and other business supplies. Or specific name-brand items with the same product number such as power tools.

Entertainment products are great online purchases because no matter how big the music store or book seller, brick and mortar stores can’t match the endless selection available online. It’s easy to read a book on a Kindle, but I prefer turning the pages of a book I can hold in my hand and add to my library.

When I taught photojournalism,

Letters to the editor

Reader encourages, ‘Go ahead, talk to strangers’

Carol Weiler, Sartell

I agree with the editorial “It’s Time to Talk to Strangers” (in the Dec. 14 Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader). I make an effort to do so, and it is rewarding.

When my husband and I travel outside of this country, we inevitably wind up eating a meal in a restaurant and striking up a conversation with our neighbors at the next table. We have learned so much about their cultures and their opinions about America. We learn about places to go known only to natives. We’ve had great conversations with butchers, bakers and Airbnb hosts. After we talk, they are not strangers anymore.

In our own community, I have made contact with “perfect” stran-

Scrooge, Mr. Grinch deserve better treatment

Luke Green, Sartell

During this holiday season, I urge community members to be mindful of the transformative power of the Christmas spirit. It presents itself in many forms: goodwill, kindness, altruism and forgiveness. Two gentleman I believe are in need of better treatment this holiday season, and henceforth, are Ebenezer Scrooge and Mr. Grinch.

One hundred seventy-five years ago, Ebenezer had a bad trip and did some soul-searching. The result being he has made a complete and purpose-

Mike Knaak

Editor



students would frequently ask me about what camera to buy.

I would answer by asking them questions about how they planned to use the camera now and in the future and how much money they had to spend. Students were often attracted to “deals” available online.

Buying a camera online can be tricky. First, just like a pair of shoes or a new car, you want to get the “feel” of the camera. There’s no way to do that online. You need to visit a camera store. If you are going to buy online, make sure you know the EXACT make and model of the camera you want before purchasing.

My favorite camera store is B and H in New York City. They offer just about every camera, photo accessory, audio and video gear ever made. And their prices are very competitive. I’ve ordered many products from them. But beginning to shop online for a camera at B and H or any other online store is pretty daunting.

If you are ever in New York City, visit their retail store on Ninth Avenue where you’ll find you can touch and choose from thousands of products.

I can’t imagine buying a television

online although there are apparently great deals to be found. I want to compare pictures side by side. The best place to do that is at a Best Buy store, not Best Buy online.

Recently, I’ve seen ads for buying a car online from Carvana. You can search for the car and price you want to pay and make the purchase. You’ve got to be kidding. Drive a car without sitting in it, without driving it, without testing the controls?

Carvana promises a seven-day “test own” period so you can return it if you don’t like it. No thanks.

There’s at least one brick-and-mortar store that I’m pretty sure will never be replaced by online shopping. That’s Crafts Direct in Waite Park.

During the holiday season, I accompanied my wife who was SHOPPING for yarn. The store features tens of thousands of products spread across 32 aisles and 40,000 square feet.

Where else can you find an aisle marker for EYES?

There’s no way an online shopping experience could replace browsing the selections. As I followed my wife around, I assumed the posture of the other small number of men in the store by walking slowly with my hands in my pockets.

As we approached the corral that leads to the 10 cashiers, I checked out the items along the way. I found bags of pretzels and an iPhone holder for my bike.

I almost became a SHOPPER.

ers. My last conversation was with a woman my age with a head covering at the YMCA pool. I remarked about the pleasant pool temperature and our conversation continued for a half hour. She is from Yemen and has been here for a while. She was warm and friendly. Her favorite form of exercise is belly dancing!

Another contact was just before Eid, a big holiday for Muslims. I saw a young Somali woman entering Aldi. Should I wish her a good Eid? Would she feel I had overstepped as a non-Muslim? I did it and was rewarded with a broad smile and a thank you. No big deal, but maybe she felt a little more a part of our community that day. I felt better, too.

I had a very disturbing conversa-

tion on Facebook a few months ago. One person was remarking how threatened they felt by “outsiders” in our area. They are selling their home of many years to move elsewhere. That person was joined by others who expressed the same sentiments. As part of the thread, I asked what their complaints were. They said Somalis were rude and bad drivers. That was it.

I do not feel threatened by our newest neighbors. When you get to know them, as we have, they can be warm, friendly and hospitable. When you think about what they have been through, their positive attitude about the future is remarkable.

Go ahead. Talk to strangers.

ful change in how he feels about the holidays and how he treats his employees year-round. Mr. Grinch is no different. Sixty-one years ago, after being victimized by the townsfolk of Whoville for years, he channeled his frustration in counterproductive ways that weren’t very chill. Cindy Lou called him on it and together they righted his wrongs all while he was dealing with an untreated case of cardiomegaly.

The Christmas season is about growth and development into becoming more perfect stewards of the

Christmas spirit. How are both of these guys rewarded for doing just that? By becoming pejorative taunts that are lobbed by supposed Christians who feel another’s outward expression of Christmas falls short of their arbitrary and sanctimonious standards.

I encourage you to celebrate Christmas, or any other holiday as you see fit; however, I implore you to remember how both Misters Scrooge and Grinch’s good names should no longer be viewed in a negative light and rather be heralded as exemplars of the Christmas spirit.



PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748  
NOV. 19, 2018  
DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER BOARD ROOM

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Jason Nies. Members present: Nies; Mary McCabe, vice chair; Pamela Raden, clerk; Jeremy Snoberger, treasurer; Lesa Kramer, director and Patrick Marushin, director; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Members absent: none.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Snoberger to APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS A-E WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS: add to Resignations and Release of Employment: Nazlah Krenzelok; remove and not accept resignation item 3: Cody Rose. All in favor. Motion carried.

- a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on Oct. 15, 2018  
Minutes of the board work session held on Oct. 17, 2018  
Minutes of the special school board meeting held on Nov. 9, 2018
- b. Checks in the amount of \$2,478,437.53 as presented:  
General Fund 1,815,982.57  
Food Service Fund 149,590.10  
Transportation Fund 257,598.05  
Community Service Fund 33,996.27  
Capital Expenditure Fund 219,005.41  
Debt Service Fund 2,385.00  
Summer Rec Agency Fund (119.87)  
Check numbers 173387 – 173773

ACHs in the amount of \$595.40 as presented:  
General Fund 595.40  
ACH numbers 181900001-181900003

Receipts in the amount of \$5,032,020.28 as presented:  
General Fund 2,697,059.40  
Food Service Fund 258,343.10  
Transportation Fund 529.80  
Community Service Fund 161,490.16  
Capital Expenditure Fund 12,105.19  
Building Fund 5,863.55  
Debt Service Fund 1,896,629.08  
Receipts 45181-45317

Wire transfers in the amount of \$7,655.13 as presented:  
General Fund 1,203.76  
Food Service Fund 5,413.11  
Community Service Fund 1,038.26  
Wire transfers 201800031-201800035

Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$6,385,780.60 as presented:  
Building Fund 6,385,780.60  
Check number 600363-600404

- c. Accept the following donations:

Early Childhood PTO, Early Childhood, \$1,650.00, classroom supplies; Sartell-St. Stephen Education Foundation, ISD #748, \$250, sensory seating at SMS; Pine Meadow PTO Elementary, ISD #748, \$64.95, classroom supplies; anonymous, Pine Meadow Elementary, \$300, School lunch funds for families experiencing financial hardship.

- d. Accept the resignation of Sasha Doeden, SHS, cashier, 11/7/18; Bonnie Mehr, PME, student supervisor, 12/21/18; Cynthia Wennekamp, SMS, student supervisor, 11/14/18; accept the release of employment of Nazlah Krenzelok, SMS, food service worker, 11/19/18.

- e. District 748 Sartell-St. Stephen Professional Development and Continuous Improvement Goals as presented.  
Student Representative Report:

Student Representative Report: Yash Hindka, student  
Hindka reported on happenings around the district. Oak Ridge will celebrate Thanksgiving with turkey bingo and will host a Grandparent Day lunch on Dec. 7. The Middle School held its annual Veterans’ Day program. Speakers included current and former veterans of students and staff members. Kids Connecting to the Community was a success for seventh-graders who volunteered in the community. This year the Student Council will hold a food drive for Quiet Oaks Hospice. The High School is doing a building-wide food drive with each classroom filling a bag; 60 bags have been collected to date. Girls’ swim sent 17 swimmers to the state competition and finished fourth. Jordan Williams and Nick Goff, who play on the co-op St.

Cloud Thunder adapted soccer team, were state champions. Winter sports have started along with auditions for the One-Act Play.

- Superintendent Report:  
Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent

Schwiebert reported on the Veterans’ Day program at the Middle School and commended staff that followed up with the students after the presentation. MSBA sent information regarding the School Land Trust, and offered thanks to Representative Tim O’Driscoll as he was a strong advocate for the Trust. MSBA will also have its annual conference in January if the board is interested in attending. A new fence was installed at the new high school site; this was to maintain our current insurance policy, but have had no issues in that area.

- Construction Manager Report on Building Process:

Construction Manager Lee Gruen reported painters have been at the site since last week in the music wing and will continue to the theatre high areas next. Sheetrock is near completion in all wings as plumbers and mechanics are finishing and leaving the job site. Masonry is almost finished in the locker rooms, pool windows are all installed and the heat is on in that area. Furniture, fixtures and equipment meetings have started with the Steering Committee and the summer schedule is still on target.

- School Board Committee Report:

Director Kramer reported on the Community Education Advisory Committee and Drug Free Coalition meeting that she attended.

- Facility Presentation on Sartell Middle School Remodeling Project:

Cuningham Group Project Manager Dan Grothe and Interior Decorator Hailey Wrasman presented on the Sartell Middle School Remodeling Project.

- District 748 2017-2018 World’s Best Workforce Plan Report:

Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services Kay Nelson presented a summary of the 2017-18 ISD 748 District Plan for meeting the requirements of Minnesota Statute 120B.11: Striving for the World’s Best Workforce to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education for Minnesota.

- District 748 2018-2019 World’s Best Workforce Plan Report:

Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services Kay Nelson presented the 2018-19 ISD 748 Strategic Plan for meeting the requirements of Minnesota Statute 120B.11: Striving for the World’s Best Workforce. This plan was developed by members of the District Cur-

riculum, Instruction and Assessment Advisory Committee.

- Enrollment Report:

Superintendent Schwiebert reported on the current 2018-2019 enrollment numbers for each school.

- District Calendar Report:

Superintendent Schwiebert presented the process and proposed 2019-2020 Sartell-St. Stephen Academic calendar.

A motion was made by McCabe and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE #1-21:

- New Employees/Changes:

Alexis Flaherty, SHS, assistant gymnastics, \$1,824 (9.5 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), 50-percent contract, replacing Bill Cochran, 11/12/2018; Joshua Halicke, SMS, assistant wrestling coach (outside funded), \$2,017 (10.5 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), new position, 11/19/2018; Shelby Hall, SHS, assistant gymnastics, \$1,824 (9.5 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), 50-percent contract, replacing Bill Cochran, 11/12/2018; Sean Minder, SMS, junior high softball, \$1,728 (4.5 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Danielle Olson, 3/11/2019; Alexis Phillips, SHS, head junior high dance, \$4,801 (12.5 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), new position, 10/22/2018; Dylan Plemel, SMS, junior high boys swim, \$2,439 (6.35 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Amelia Klemp, 11/26/2018; Aaron Romportl, SMS, junior high softball, \$1,773 (4.5 percent), BA, 00 (\$39,394), replacing Greg Roering, 3/11/2019; Noah Schmelzer, SHS, assistant first robotics, \$864 (2.25 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), new position, 1/6/2019; Joe Schulte, SHS, first Robotics, \$2,055 (5.35 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Brian Nelson, 1/6/2019; Gene Severson, SHS, ninth-grade boys basketball, \$4,960 (10.5 percent), BA, H (\$47,236), replacing Jacob Smith, 11/12/2018; Ashley Skinner, Transportation, bus monitor, \$16.31/hour, 3.5 hours/day, replacing Leah Saldana, 10/1/2018; Nickolas Zyman-ski, SMS, junior high baseball, \$1,728 (4.5 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Aaron Romportl, 3/11/2019; Josiah Torvik, SMS, junior high boys swim \$2,439 (6.35 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Sue Sathre, 10/26/2018; Kerry Trnka, SHS, Math League advisor, \$864 (2.25 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Zachary Steffl, 10/22/2018; Raleigh Woodruff, SHS, ninth-grade boys basketball, \$4,239 (10.5 percent), BA, A (\$40,371), replacing Zachary Steffl, 11/19/2018.

- Leaves of Absence:

Ariel Bender, SHS, teacher, LOA, 11/6/18-5/31/19; Greg Henning, SHS, teacher, LOA, 1/24/19-2/1/19; Neshaw Houg, SMS, para, LOA, 11/9/18-11/25/18; Amelia Klemp, PME, speech language,

LOA, 12/17/18-1/14/19; Emily Schmit, SHS, teacher, LOA, 3/11/19-5/31/19; Renee Zieglmeier, Early Childhood, child-care attendant, LOA, 11/1/18-12/14/18.

All in favor. Motion carried.  
A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Snoberger to APPROVE THE 2017-18 DISTRICT 748 WORLD’S BEST WORKFORCE PLAN SUMMARY FOR MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF MINNESOTA STATE STATUTE 120B.11: STRIVING FOR THE WORLD’S BEST WORKFORCE. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Kramer to APPROVE THE 2018-19 ISD 748 DISTRICT PLAN FOR MEETING REQUIREMENTS OF MINNESOTA STATE STATUTE 120B.11: STRIVING FOR THE WORLD’S BEST WORKFORCE. Discussion was held on goals. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by McCabe to APPROVE OFFICIAL REVISIONS TO POLICIES 425, 501, 502, 504, 505, 509, 510, 511, 513, 515, 516, 520 and 521. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE NORDIC SKI TEAM FUNDRAISER. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE OFF-CAMPUS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COLLEGE OF ST. SCHOLASTICA AND ISD 748. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by McCabe to APPROVE CALL FOR BIDS FOR AUDIO VISUAL – EQUIPMENT, PROGRAMMING, ETC. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

District Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Advisory Committee Meeting - Tuesday, Dec. 11 - District Services Center @ 7:30 a.m.  
• Truth in Taxation Meeting - Monday, Dec. 17 - Sartell High School Media Center @ 6 p.m.  
• Future Board Meeting - Monday, Dec. 17 - Sartell High School Media Center @ 6:30 p.m.

- Committees

Committee assignments for 2018 were reviewed.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:50 p.m. was made by Raden and seconded by McCabe. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Pamela Raden, Clerk

Publish: Dec. 28, 2018





contributed photo

(Above) Last year’s robotics tournament filled the gym at Sartell Middle School. The Sartell-St. Stephen school district is hosting the third annual Sabres VEX EDR Robotics Tournament from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, at Sartell Middle School. Everyone

is welcome to attend this free event. Teams from across the state will compete in two specialties: the Elementary and Middle School Tournament in the South Gym will feature 36 VEX IQ teams and the Middle School and High School Tournament in the

North Gym will feature 44 VEX EDR teams. Robotics competitions are an opportunity for students to demonstrate team work, creativity, problem-solving and engineering as they work together with other teams throughout the day.

## 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 [tri-countycrimestoppers.org](http://tri-countycrimestoppers.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.

**Dec. 12**

6 a.m. Traffic stop. First Street NE. An officer witnessed a vehicle traveling at a higher speed than the posted speed limit. The officer stopped the vehicle and issued a citation for the infraction..

**Dec. 13**

4:05 a.m. Domestic. Lowell Lane. Officers were dispatched to a residence about a domestic disturbance. Officers found one party intoxicated. Officers separated the individuals who had been arguing. The intoxicated individual took a cab from the residence to a parent’s residence to end the disturbance.

**Dec. 14**

7:25 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 33. While running license plates, an officer witnessed a driver with a suspended license driving a vehicle. The officer stopped the vehicle and found an individual in the vehicle had a no-contact order and was in violation of that order. The passenger was arrested for the violation and the driver was issued a citation for driving

with a suspended license.

**Dec. 15**

2:10 a.m. Suspicious activity. 12th Street N. An officer witnessed a vehicle in a park after hours. The officer talked with two individuals in the park and after initially giving the officer a false name, warrants for the individual’s arrest were discovered. The individual was arrested for the warrants and cited for giving a false name to police. The other party was released without issue.

**Dec. 16**

6:10 p.m. Domestic. CR 120. Officers were called to a business about a couple arguing. When the officers arrived, the two individuals were arguing in the parking lot. The officers identified both parties to discover one

had a warrant for their arrest. The individual was arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail. The other party was released.

**Dec. 17**

10:05 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 120. An officer witnessed a vehicle fail to signal a turn. When the officer stopped the vehicle, the driver failed to produce proof of insurance. The officer issued a verbal warning for both of the infractions.

**Dec. 18**

6 a.m. Traffic stop. Victory Avenue. An officer witnessed a vehicle pass another vehicle in a no-passing zone. When the officer conducted the stop, the driver admitted to passing the vehicle but was unaware it was a no-passing zone. The officer issued a citation for the infraction.

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