Postal Reaching Everybody! ewsleaders

Friday, Jan. 11, 2019 Volume 24, Issue 1 Est. 1995

Town Crier

Knights' Freethrow Contest to be Saturday, Jan. 12

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 competition will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, in St. Francis Xavier School, 219 Second St. N. This event is sponsored 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 ques-

Travel Thursday to explore England, Wales on Jan. 17

Join Dennis Herschbach and Vicky Schaefer at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., when they present a PowerPoint talk that follows their recent trip to England and Wales with friends Gary Berg and Maggie Brossoit. The four spent a week on the Llangollen Canal system, piloting an nmTow boat from Ellesmere, England, to Llangollen, Wales. After motoring to the Lake Country of England they spent two weeks in Windermere, exploring the countryside from Hadrian's Wall to William Wordsworth's Dove Cottage and many other points of interest.

Nies, Byrd elected school board leaders

At its organizational meeting, the Sartell-St. Stephen school board again elected Jason Nies as board chair.

Newly elected member Amanda Byrd took her seat on the board at the special Jan. 7 meeting. Byrd will serve as treasurer. She replaced Mary McCabe on the board.

The board heard a presentation on pre-kindergarten through second-grade building configuration but did not make a decision.

The next school board meeting is 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, at the district office, 212 Third Ave. N.

INSERTS: City of St. Stephen newsletter

PineCone Vision Center

NHL team shares Sartell boy's celebration feed with the message "Follow

editor@thenewsleaders.com

When Dane Kenning opened his Christmas presents this year, he found a Las Vegas Golden Knights jersey bearing the name of Nate Schmidt, a former hockey star at Cathedral High School and the University of Minnesota.

Soon after opening his gift, Dane donned the jersey and joined other boys for a game of hockey on the family's pond.

After he scored a goal, his mother Jennifer photographed the celebration and sent the photo to the Golden Knights via the NHL team's Facebook page. The team asked permission to use the photo and they posted it on their Twitter vour dreams, kid."

"Dane is a very humble kid (much like I hear Schmidt is) and it has been heartwarming for all of us to read the Twitter comments of so many people reminiscing about their kids (or themselves) playing pond hockey, and remembering what it's like to be a kid with dreams," Jennifer said.

Dane, 9, plays squirt hockey. He's a Sabre fan but also a Cathedral hockey follower and huge Nate Schmidt fan, his mother says. Jennifer is a Cathedral graduate as are many of her family members.

Danes's father Scott maintains the pond for skating and loves to see neighborhood kids playing on it, Jennifer said.



Dane Kenning celebrates a goal wearing his new Gold Knights hockey jersey. The team picked up the photo of Dave and posted it on their Twitter feed.

Schools plan app launch

by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleaders.com

An app that will tie together school news and information for parents and community members will be launched by the Sartell-St. Stephen school district on Wednesday, Jan. 16. Parents will receive an email with credentials to set up a password-protected portal to track student details such as attendance, lunch account and checked out library books.

Parents and community members will be able to see feeds from

the school board, social media and calendars and customize the app for services that are most important to

Many of those services are available on the district's website now, but the app will deliver information to users' smartphones so they won't have to go looking for it. In addition, users will be able to message school staff.

There are versions for Android and iPhone available by searching your app store for "Sartell-St. Stephen Schools" starting Jan. 16.

Andel appointed to fill council vacancy

by Dennis Dalman news@thenewsleaders.com

In November, Brady Andel lost his bid for election to the Sartell City Council, but as of Jan. 14 he will take a place on the council, anyway.

That's because at a special Jan. 7 city-council meeting, members agreed to appoint Andel to fill a vacancy on the council rather than conduct another election. Andel received the third highest number of votes in the Nov. 6 election among the four candidates who

were competing for two open seats. The two council seat winners were Tim Elness and Jeff Kolb. Besides Andel, Barika Davis also vied for a council seat.

In the election, Elness received 3,571 votes; Kolb 3,205; Andel 3,016 and Davis 1,804.

Sartell City Administrator Mary Degiovanni said Andel was contacted about the council's decison and has agreed to accept the appointment to the council.

Also in the Nov. 6 election, then-council member Ryan Fitz-

Andel • page 2

Father-son love to shovel veterans' driveways

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

Tim Held, 48, endured years of setbacks, lousy luck, injuries, pains and an insidious infection that cost him his right leg. His family suffered right along with him, but they learned things could be worse and that giving back has curative powers for the soul.

"There's always somebody worse off," Held said. "I've always felt I've got to give back. We've got to help each other out."

And that is why Held and his 11-vear-old son, Thomas, love to snowblow and hand-shovel driveways as members of the Plowing Vets program. The Helds do the work for free, and they clear snow off of 10 to 12 home driveways of military personnel away on deployments, of disabled veterans back home, of first responders and of police officers or deputies during their busy duty hours.

This is the second year of the Helds' snow-removal tasks. There are about a dozen members of the Plowing Vets program. Last year, they plowed out or hand-shoveled



Father-and-son snow-removal team Tim Held (right) and Thomas. They are members of Plowing Vets, a program that provides snow removal for those who serve the public, such as veterans, law-enforcement officers and first responders.

57 driveways in central Minnesota, as far west as Albany.

How does a man with only one leg shovel snow?

"Well, it's not easy," said Held, laughing, "But I love doing it, I'm a bit scared about slipping, but I do wear spiked shoes. My son

loves to shovel even more than I do. When it starts snowing and he's in school, he just can't wait to get home so we can go shoveling."

Last year, their first for the program, Held admits he was "just shot" by the end of winter.

"And then Thomas said to me, 'Oh, Dad, quit acting like such a wimp.' And that kind of turned me around," he said, laughing.

The Helds learned firsthand how much their voluntary efforts mean to people. One story especially stays with them. Last winter, they noticed the driveway of Sartell resident Rollie Weis not shoveled. Weis is a much-honored World War II veteran, whose brother Phillip, was killed in that war during the Battle of the Bulge. Tim Held, who grew up next to the Weis family, has always considered Weis a hero.

So that cold day, he and his son began snowblowing the Weis driveway. Weis walked out of his house, said hello to the Helds and asked them, "What the heck's going on?"

When Tim Held told Weis why

Shovel • page 2

Andel

from front page

thum was elected as the city's new mayor, defeating mayoral contender David Peterson, also a council member at that time. Those two candidates decided to file for the position when Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll announced she would not seek re-election.

Because mayor-elect Fitzthum still had close to two years on his four-year council-member term, it was necessary to fill that vacancy with another person. The council, at its Jan. 7 meeting, decided Andel should be appointed because the council had previously filled vacancies that same way - appointed the next-highest vote-getter from the previous election.

Just before the special council meeting of Jan. 7, Mayor Fitzthum and council members Elness and Kolb took the oath of office so they could help conduct city business, including the appointment of Andel. All members, including Andel, will be formally sworn in during a ceremony at the Jan. 14 meeting.

The council is now comprised of the new mayor, Fitzthum; council member Mike Chisum (elected for a four-year term in 2016); and the three new ones - Andel, Elness, Kolb. Another previous member, Pat Lynch, chose not to file again for the Nov. 6 election.

Andel

Raised in Foley, Brady Andel, who has lived in Sartell for close to 18 years, is an agency owner for Armstrong Transportation Group, a transportation logistics company whose headquarters are in Charlotte, N.C. Andel earned a degree in business administration and management in 2001 from St. Cloud State University. For 10 years, Andel was an accounts manager for CH Robinson, another transportation logistics company for which Sartell's new mayor, Ryan Fitzthum, also works as branch manager.

PUBLIC NOTICE-

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN RESOLUTION ADOPTING FEES, CHARGES & COMPENSATION

The City Council for the City of St. Stephen hereby RESOLVES, that the following fees, charges and compensation are hereby adopted and shall remain in effect until subsequently modified by resolution of the Council:

Code of Ordinance Section	Description	Amount
Section 21	Mayor Salary	\$250.00 per month
Section 21	Council Salary	\$125.00 per month
Section 36	Park Rental	\$0.00 – fee \$0.00 damage deposit
Section 41	Zoning Ordinance Public Hearing	\$100.00 regular mtg.* \$240.00 special mtg.*
Section 41	Variance Application Fee	\$100.00 regular mtg. \$240.00 special mtg.
Section 42	Site Permit Fee	\$100. 00 under \$10,000 \$150.00 under \$25,000 \$300.00 over \$25,000
Section 45	Preliminary Plat Approval Fee	\$100.00 for the first 0-10 lots, \$5 per lot thereafter, not to exceed a total of \$500.00
	Legal/Engineering Escrow	\$15,000.00
Section 51	Coin Operated Amusement Device Fee	\$15.00
Section 61	Liquor License Fees	\$1,650 On-Sale Intox. \$100 On-Sale Wine Only \$100 Off-Sale Intox \$200 Sunday \$500 Specialty Club \$100 On-Sale Non-Intox \$25 Off-Sale Non-Intox
Section 52	Cigarette License	\$50.00
Not Applicable	City Hall Rental/Use	\$25 Resident per Day \$50 Non-Resodent Per Day \$50 Organization Annual Fee
Not Applicable	City Plow Truck with Driver Sand/Salt	\$130 per hour \$110 per yard

*Applies to amendments, rezoning, appeals and special-use permits.

This Resolution was adopted the 2nd day of January, 2019.

/s/ Jeff Blenkush, City of St. Stephen Mayor /s/ Cris M Drais, City of St. Stephen City Clerk

Dated: Jan. 7, 2019

Publish: Jan. 11, 2019

Shovel

from front page

they were doing it and about the Plowing Vets program, Weis's eyes glimmered with tears.

"Those tears in his eves told the whole story," Held said. "And that moment really made an impact on Thomas. He thinks of it a lot."

Plowing Vets

The Plowing Vets program was started a few years ago when veteran Nate Chapman, who lives near Royalton, would be deployed overseas during his 14 years with the military. A neighbor of his, Tim Meeland, a Stearns County sheriff's deputy, would shovel Chapman's driveway as a favor when Chapman was on a deployment. Then, one winter, Chapman was not deployed, and he decided to start plowing disabled veterans' driveways - veterans he either knew personally or ones he'd heard about.

Thus, one good deed led to another, and more volunteers became involved. Held joined the group after talking with Meeland. Having been a Reserve officer for Sartell for 10 years, Held knew firsthand of the athome needs of officers who worked night shifts and of injured or retired firefighters or emergency-medical technicians. Many of them can use a helping hand now and then, Held said. The first driveway the Helds cleaned off was that of Nate Johnson, a Paynesville police officer who lives in Sartell. Johnson himself then decided to join Plowing Vets.

Plowing Vets members spend their own money to do their work, but donations, such as gas cards, really help a lot. Some people also donate equipment. A business in St. Joseph, Power House, donated a snowblower and also donated labor to fix ailing machines.

"They're awesome," Held said. "They've been so good to us."

Just this year, a veteran donated a snowblower, and it's the one the Helds now use. Another donation, an enclosed trailer for hauling the snowblower, came from Sartell Police Deputy Chief Dale Struffert, who has long been one of Held's best friends. The good deeds spawned by the Plowing Vets program seem to have a magical power of multiplying.

Traumas

Tim Held and his wife, Leah, who is a dispatcher for the Stearns County Sheriff's Department, have three children: Thomas, 11; Ryan, 9; Sophie, 8.

A couple years ago, the family went to a water park in the Twin Cities area. While there, Held stepped on a piece of glass, resulting in a tiny cut on his right big toe. Later, back home, a vicious infection began that became worse with every passing day. After many doctor and hospital visits, nothing seemed to knock out the infection and then a potentially deadly sepsis set in. One day, Held woke up in the hospital and heard

the doctor tell him, "I'm sorry, but we're going to have to take the leg."

They amputated his right leg just below the knee. But even that did not stop the persistent infection. The ruthless germ kept morphing into a different form. One summer, Held had to undergo 22 surgeries during which doctors had to scrape infected areas from the leg bone.

"It got to the point where I'd arrive at the hospital and receptionists would automatically ask if I'm there for another surgery," Held recalled.

The injury, the uncertainties, emotional and financial worries were very hard on the family. It was a time when "bad" just kept getting "worse." It was also a time right after Held had filed for a seat on the Sartell City Council and because he was so laid up all the time, he could not campaign as he'd hoped. Mike Chisum and Ryan Fitzthum were elected that year.

After the amputation, Held would keep falling, often forgetting his right leg was not there anymore. He even fell on the wooden ramp friends had built for him.

One day, he decided to surprise his kids by standing unaided on the ramp when they got off the school bus. When they saw him, the kids started screaming and cheering as they ran up to give him hugs.

"Daddy's standing, Daddy's standing," they all yelled happily.

It took Held about a year to get fully used to his prosthetic device (artificial leg).

The leg trauma wasn't the only setback for Held. While working for the Sartell Parks Department years ago, he fell on his head on the outdoor ice rink at Bernick's Arena. He was replacing a sheet of plexiglass when the below-zero wind hit it, knocking Held over. He passed out and woke up in an ambulance. The closed-head brain injury left him with a permanent disability.

"It's a bit better now, but I will have life-long effects like headaches, ringing in my ears and cognitive difficulties like trouble with balance sometimes.'

Held said it often seemed that without his bad luck he would have no "luck at all."

What helped him and the family through the long struggles were supportive friends like Struffert and the congregation at Celebration Lutheran Church.

"They embraced us every chance they got with every arm they had," he said. "We are so blessed to be part of that church."

The Helds have seen and experienced countless times the power of good people doing good deeds, and that is one big reason Tim and Thomas Held love to shovel driveways.

Join/Donate

For more about Plowing Vets and how to make an appointment or donate, visit its website at: www. plowingvetsmn.com.

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

www.thenewsleaders.com

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> **Assignment Editor** Carolyn Bertsch

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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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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, 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.

Monday, Jan. 14

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

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

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Adult Coloring and Conversation, 3-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. Call Michelle at 320-281-2041. Call abilities wel-

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

Wednesday, Jan. 16

SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S., Sartell.

Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.

Thursday, Jan. 17 Coffee and Conversation,

a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Discussion topic is drones with Stearns County Sheriff's Office Lt. Robert Dick-

American Legion-Sartell, open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Liquid Assets, 1091 Second St. S. No. 600, Sartell. john.denney@charter.net.

Friday, Jan. 18

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

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

Saturday, Jan. 19 Community Meal, 11:30 Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell.

Sunday, Jan. 20

Waite Park American Legion Breakfast, 8 a.m.-noon. 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

Monday, Jan. 21

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

Donate blood, noon-6 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell. For an appointment call 800-733-2767.

St. Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease Support Group, 1-2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rap-

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

Tuesday, Jan. 22

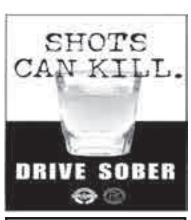
National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. The group helps parents raising a child with mental illness learn coping skills and develop problem-solving skills. 320-654-1259.

Thursday, Jan. 24

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

Friday, Jan. 25

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





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21 16th Ave. SE St. Joseph, MN 56374

a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Mathadia Church 1107 Piras Students chosen as runners-up in 'Live United' essay contest

by Cori Hilsgen

news@thenewsleaders.com

If you were asked how you live united, what would your answer be? Two Sartell fifth-grade students recently took time to write their thoughts on paper to enter the United Way "Live United" Essay Contest.

Annabelle Trombley, from Sartell Middle School, and Addie Smith, from St. Francis Xavier School, were recently chosen as runners-up in the contest.

Sartell Middle School faculty commented on Trombley qualifying as a runners-up in the contest.

"Annabelle's spirit of giving and 'Living United' is truly inspiring to our Sartell Middle School students, staff and community," said Kurt Stumpf, principal.

"Annabelle is very deserving of this award, said Mary Gruenes, teacher. "She has done some remarkable things that have benefitted our community, and she truly is a shining example of what it means to Live United. I expect she will continue to lead by example and share her gifts and talents with our community. I am very proud of her."

This is the winning essay Trombley submitted for the contest.

"My first memory of Living United was donating my hair to kids who have cancer. It felt good donating to make someone happy. I enjoy volunteering. Stocking food shelves and ringing bells are always rewarding. I've asked for donations instead of birthday presents for Salvation Army and Pockets of Hope. "Summer of Service" was fun because I helped kids with arts, crafts, learning and sports. I've gotten to experience things that will help me in life. I've helped people and hopefully they've been happier and helped others to Live United. When we help each other, we help everyone."

Smith wrote her essay from her personal experience with her

"Our family has gone through a lot this past year and I wanted to do something for others," Smith said. "My little cousin Christian

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



St. Francis Xavier fifth-grader Addie Smith (right) with her mother/teacher Lora Smith after being chosen as a runners-up winner in the "Live United" Essay Contest.

was diagnosed with leukemia this year and the project I was working on, Warrior Wagons (give to children fighting cancer), support(s) my cousin. I was inspired by him."

This is the winning essay that Smith submitted for the contest. "I Live United by donating to

charity and by praying for people

who are very sick or have cancer. I also Live United by making bookmarks for donations. Instead of me getting the money, I donated the money to a little business called Warrior Wagons in Austin, Minn. In July, my little cousin was diagnosed with leukemia and he

Students • page 4





Little Sabres Preschool Open House

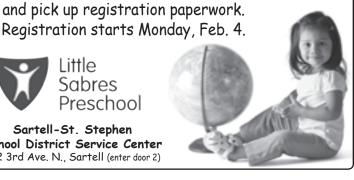
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m.-noon Saturday

2019-20 School Year · Three- and four-year-olds Students must be 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, 2019. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28

Stop in for a tour, meet staff



Sartell-St. Stephen School District Service Center 212 3rd Ave. N., Sartell (enter door 2)



Students

from page 3

received a warrior wagon. Warrior Wagons gives wagons to pediatric cancer patients for appointments in the hospital."

Jill Lenzmeier from the United Way said their essays were chosen from 622 essays submitted from around central Minnesota. There was one grand-prize winner and 14 runners-up selected. Runners-up winners received a \$75 VISA gift card and the grand-prize winner received a \$200 VISA gift card.

Essay contest requirements included incorporating the "Live United" theme in the essay, using no more than 100 words, being a fifth-grader and living within the United Way of Central Minnesota service area.







photo by Miko Vpaal

New Sheriff Steve Soyka takes the oath of office from District Court Judge Sarah Hennesy on Jan. 8.

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nhoto by Mike Knaak

An overflow crowd watches as newly elected Stearns County officials were sworn in on Jan. 8. Taking the oath of office were County Attorney Janelle Kendall, Sheriff Steve Soyka, Auditor-Treasurer Randy Schreifels and commissioners Tarryl Clark and Steve Notch.



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Whitney Senior Center

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Sartell-St. Stephen school district Director Technology Kyle Breit**kreutz** received the Sourcewell Technology (formerly TIES)

Minnesota Leader of the Year Award on Dec. 10. The award recognizes "demonstrated effective leadership in using information technologies to increase opportunities and accessibility for student learning."

In addition to leading the district's Full Access technology plan, which provides a device to every student in grades three to 12 and expanded access for kindergarten through second-grade, Breitkreutz leads a team of instructional technology specialists. They created an annual event, Education Done Differently, which invites everyone in the community to learn from students and teachers as to how their learning is elevated through technology.

Breitkreutz has grown Accessible Educational Materials access from a few students to launching it building-wide at the middle

Breitkreutz has been a district employee for more than 12 years and became the director of Technology in 2012.

Kyle's wife, Rachel, is a health/ physical education teacher at Sartell High School. Their sons, Liam and Lincoln, attend Pine Meadow Elementary, and their daughter, Lillian, attends Sartell Middle School.



A Sartell student has been accepted to the University Minnesota College of Dentistry for the Doctor of Dental Surgery program.

Mohammad Ayyub graduated from the University of Minnesota fall semester 2018 with a bachelor's degree in biology. He will begin his

ABC Seamless won the 2018 National ABC Seamless Steel Siding Franchise of the Year award. ABC Seamless president Jerry Beyers presented the award to Josh and Amy Stahlecker, owners of ABC Seamless of St Cloud located in Sartell. The award was presented during the 40th Annual ABC Seamless National Franchise Meet-

hockey team participated in the B2 and Squirt C Hockey Tournament on Dec. 8 and 9. They were one of 8 "C" teams competing including Forest Lake, Blaine, Centennial, Anoka, Andover, Mahtomedi and Cottage Grove. They beat Mahtomedi for the championship. Members of the team are: Nikolas Berger, Brandon Cihlar, Noah George, Evan Hanson, Karson Kuznia, Lane Larson, Ronin Lester, Cael Mueller, Jaden Oxley, Liam Solarz and Owen Yasgar. Head coach is Lewis Solarz, assistant coaches Andrew Berger and manager is Joleen Oxley.





Eight-graders Brooke Husmann (left) and Emily Crandall were among the students packing the gifts for Air Force personnel.

The Sartell Middle School Student Council invited students, staff and parents to contribute items to fill care packages for Air Force Medical Evacuation personnel serving in Qatar until February. One of the military members is the husband of Nicole Schmitt, math interventionist for grades five through eight.

With all the supplies that were donated, Student Council members were able to send 15 individual care packages for the crew mem-

Five area students were awarded degrees at Minnesota State University, Mankato's fall semester commencement on Dec. 15.

The students are Taylor Reetz, Cassidy Ross, Robert Satterness and Karl Scharnweber from Sartell and Mackenzie Dockendorf from St. Stephen.

Jacob Lieberg, a junior pharmacy major from Sartell, is the 2018-19 recipient of the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Endowed Scholarship at South Dakota State University.

He is the son of Julie and Mike and Lieberg and a 2016 graduate of Sartell High School.

Lieberg, a member of the South Dakota State track and field team, was named to The Summit League Academic Honor Roll in spring

Juli Stone Pitzer of Sartell will

bers from Minnesota, as well as five extra care packages for other military personnel who are deployed in Qatar.

At the end of November, Sartell Middle School received unique gifts of gratitude from the 15 military members in Qatar: a flag, official certificate, military coin and military patch. Each of the five crews that these members are a part of flew the flag on a different mission they were on throughout the middle east.

Volunteers from Catholic Charities Foster Grandparent Program received awards for their years of service. Foster Grandparent Director Stacy Lund and Area Supervisor Sara Heurung acknowledged foster grandparents with one-, 10-, and 20-year volunteering milestones. Penny Lundblad, Oak Ridge Elementary School, was recognized for one year of service. Judy Groth of Pine Meadow Elementary School was recognized for 10 years of service. A total of 35 foster grandparents were recognized for their service. The Foster Grandparent Program offers seniors 55 and older the opportunity to work with students in schools or other nonprofit agencies where there are children who need extra help to succeed.

Kellee Rucks of Sartell graduated with a master's degree in nursing (family nurse practitioner) from Graceland University, Lamo-

CHAT

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The Sartell boys hockey team conducted its annual Teddy Bear Toss on Dec. 18 during the game with the St. Cloud Tech/Apollo team. They collected 137 bears for the Toys for Tots Christmas drive. The senior boys are (front row, from left) Connor Kalthoff, Nate Stoebe, Nick Buiceag-Arama and Nick Plautz; and (back row) Devin Peterson, Brock Boerger, Jake Mumm, Maddox Hagy, Jack Hennemann, Cameron Cromwell, Austin Adelman and Cole Bright.

Two Sartell teachers have been named to the Perpich Center for Arts Education Regional Arts Teacher-Leader network.

The two educators are Holly Lathe, who teaches music at Pine Meadow Elementary School, and Brandon Nordhues, music teacher at Sartell High School.

The network includes 62 teachers of dance, media arts, music, visual arts and theater. Members will offer their expertise as a resource for arts educators in their regions through facilitating professional development and providing knowledgeable support to colleagues.

Heather Wensel of Sartell has been named to the fall semester president's list at Minnesota State Community and Technical College. To earn this award, students must earn a minimum grade-point aver-

Hailey Winter of Sartell was named to the fall dean's list at the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

To be named to the dean's list, students must achieve a minimum 3.50 grade-point average.

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Our View

All should agree on voting rights

When the Minnesota Legislature convened this week, legislators focused on how state government will deal with a \$1.5-billion budget surplus. Democrats will demand increased funding for programs such as education and health care and Republicans will urge a tax cut.

While agreement on the budget may be months off, there's one set of legislative proposals that should be supported by both parties. Secretary of State Steve Simon announced what he calls his "Investing in Democracy" agenda aimed at maintaining Minnesota's nation-leading role for voter turnout and voting rights.

Simon's agenda includes four components: increased security, decreased barriers to voter registration, restoration of voting rights for those who were formerly incarcerated and protecting voter privacy.

To improve Minnesota's voter security, Congress allocated more than \$6.6 million. Unfortunately, legislators and the governor could not agree last session and these funds were not allocated, making Minnesota the only state not to receive this federal investment in time for the 2018 election. Democrats and Republicans should quickly agree on legislation to get this money.

To make voting easier, Simon proposes automatically registering people when they interact with government agencies unless they opt out. Automatic voter registration would update the current "motor voter" law, which allows eligible Minnesotans to register to vote when they apply for a driver's license.

While Minnesota routinely leads the nation in voter participation, the turnout in the 2018 general election was just 64.25 percent and only 86.8 percent of eligible Minnesotans were registered to vote. Automatic voter registration will save money and improve voter participation.

Easy access to the ballot is a central tenet of Minnesota's elections. However, a person who has been convicted of a felony but has left prison behind is ineligible to vote while on parole or on probation. Approximately 60,000 Minnesotans are currently barred from voting because they have been convicted of a felony and have not had their civil rights restored. Simon proposes making Minnesota the 17th state in the nation in which voting rights are restored as soon as a person convicted of a felony is released from prison.

Passed in 2016 by the legislature, the law creating the 2020 presidential primary requires separate ballots for each political party, requires all voters disclose to election officials the party ballot they choose and makes that data public record. Minnesotans have not had to disclose their party affiliation while registering or at the polls. That privacy should be protected.

The primary would replace the straw polls taken at precinct caucuses, events sponsored by the political parties. But the local taxpayers will fund the presidential primary.

The legislature should repeal the section of the presidential primary law that mandates revealing voters' party preferences and the legislature should vote to conduct the presidential primary by mail, saving millions of dollars. In other states, mail ballots have resulted in increased participation.

The last legislative session ended with deadlock on key issues and frustrated voters. Early action on Simon's proposals should give both parties a win, showing Republicans and Democrats can work together to solve Minnesota's problems.

-Opinion

Now we've really lost Tom Emmer

We've lost Rep. Tom Emmer. We've never really had him you say, and there could be an argument for that position. Emmer rarely visits central Minnesota and much of his financial support comes from outside our area and outside the district.

But now we've really lost him.

Emmer's GOP colleagues recently appointed him to lead the National Republican Campaign Committee. The NRCC is the campaign arm of the House GOP. It raises money for incumbents and challengers and develops campaign strategy.

Emmer has said his task for the next two years is to win back Republican control of the House of Representatives. He'll do this by traveling around the country, recruiting candidates and helping them raise money. His weekend trips away from Washington, D.C., won't be to central Minnesota but to congressional districts where Republicans hope to post a win.

A former member of the Minnesota House of Representatives and failed candidate for governor, Emmer was re-elected to his third term in 2018. He was an early Donald Trump supporter and continues to stand by Trump's side at political rallies and with his votes, including voting in December for \$5.7 billion for Trump's wall...a vote that touched off the government shutdown.

Emmer was elected in 2014 to replace Michele Bachmann in the 6th District, a district Trump carried by 26 points. Emmer probably figures his position in a deep-red House seat will allow him to focus on running the NRCC rather than having to worry

Mike Knaak

Editor



about winning re-election.

Democrats should start now looking for a strong candidate to challenge him in 2020 and give him something to think about as he flies around the country trying to reclaim the House.

With Emmer joined at the hip to Trump, Democrats need to find a strong candidate to challenge him on his past positions.

On the environment, Emmer supports mineral exploration in the Superior National Forest.

On finances Emmer sponsored the Home Mortgage Disclosure Adjustment Act. The law eased disclosure and compliance requirements for mortgages and benefited smaller lenders instead of borrowers.

On gun safety, Emmer supported making it easy for people with mental illness to buy guns. That measure was the first law the Republicans sent for Trump's signature two years ago.

We've also lost whatever legislative clout Emmer had as part of the House majority. Emmer and his Trump team buddies won't be able to act so fast this time. Republicans are in the minority now, so don't look for Emmer to get any of his conservative ideas passed into law. Since his election, Emmer has never been part of the minority. A Dec. 29 New York Times story described

what it's like in the minority this way:
"Unlike the Senate, where individual members can exert some influence

al members can exert some influence whether they are in the majority or not, those on the sidelines in the House have few options. After years of being in the know about the House agenda and majority strategy, Republican lawmakers will now struggle to even ascertain what the schedule is.

"'You control nothing,' said Rep. Peter T. King, the New York Republican who will be experiencing his fourth transition in House power. 'As far as calling the shots, we have nothing like the Senate where one guy can filibuster. You have no recourse.'"

When we look at financial contributions to Emmer's campaigns, it's easy to see why we lost him and why he focused on a narrow set of issues.

In the last election cycle, Emmer raised more than \$2.4 million. Individuals and PACs associated with the insurance, securities, banking and real estate industries accounted for more than \$580,000 of that total.

And where did the money come from? The top two contributors were associated with Davisco Foods, a cheese and food ingredient company headquartered in St. Peter, and Hubbard Broadcasting, owners of the KSTP empire based in St. Paul. A total of 12 individuals in Sartell and St. Joseph contributed to Emmer's last campaign out of 648 individual contributors.

While we've lost Emmer for a number of reasons, Democrats may have found a chance to win the 6th District if they can find a strong candidate who challenges Emmer's record.

Following 'house rules' prolongs Monopoly

During the holidays, my extended family engaged in one of our annual traditions, a game of Monopoly. Though my family has played many times before, there is often confusion about the exact rules, as many people have house rules they are used to. With this in mind I decided to read through the official rules once again, and clear up some of this uncertainty. In the actual rules I learned about many things people do wrong while playing the game. I also learned by employing the correct rules, Monopoly games that can stretch on "forever" under house rules shortened to more reasonable periods of time.

Monopoly, for those who maybe haven't played, is one of the most popular and enduring board games in America and the world. The object of the game is to buy property, negotiate with others and attempt to be the last person standing in the game by bankrupting your opponents. First published in 1935, it is played in dozens of countries.

Monopoly is so popular and well-known most people in the United States have at least a basic understanding of the game's rules. Though this is great for finding people to play at a family gathering, this often creates a lot of confusion because people believe they know the rules to the game and so they don't often read them, creating a litany of house rules and exceptions that slow down the pace of the game and hurt its

dynamics.

Connor Kockler





The largest of these house rule headaches is the "Free Parking" space. Situated on the second corner of the board after the start at "Go," this area is home to many a misconception. Many people play "Free Parking" as being some sort of lottery space. Money is placed into the center of the board, either a base amount and/or money collected from fines, and is then cashed out as a jackpot to the lucky person who lands on the space.

Not only is this against the rules, it actually hurts the game. The rules state "Free Parking" is just that, a free space to land where you don't have to pay anyone rent. By putting additional money into the game as a jackpot, it prolongs the game by putting money into the game that isn't supposed to be there and allowing players to continue longer than under the actual rules.

Contrary to popular belief, getting sent to jail in the game isn't as bad as you would often believe either. Some players state going to jail keeps you from collecting rent, or you have to stay in jail for a full three turns if you don't roll doubles first. Both of these rules are incorrect.

You can absolutely collect rent

while in jail and tournament-level Monopoly players often try specifically to get into jail so they can sit and collect rent without risking landing on other players' properties. You can also buy your way out of jail as soon as your next turn by paying \$50.

Another issue that often comes up is that of houses and hotels. These can be bought and placed on complete colored sets of properties in the later game, increasing rent and helping you to bankrupt your opponents. The game includes 32 houses and 12 hotels. In my experience, many players often resort to finding objects to simulate these pieces if they run out during gameplay. However, adding additional houses and hotels is against the rules.

There is intentionally only so many houses and hotels in the game in order to create scarcity. If all of the houses and hotels are in use, players are supposed to wait until some are returned to the bank, and if there are multiple interested buyers, the bank is supposed to auction them off.

Though I can't cover all the house rules and changes people might be playing with Monopoly in this column, just implementing these three major rules correctly can have a massive impact on the game. So the next time your family wants to start up a game of Monopoly, skim over the rules first. You might save yourselves a lot of confusion, and time.

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



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING ST. STEPHEN CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given the St. Stephen City Council will hold a special meeting of the City Council on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 2 Sixth Avenue SE, St. Stephen, Minnesota to continue discussing the improvement of Sixth Avenue SE road in the City of

St. Stephen. The proposed project limits are Sixth Avenue SE between the south City limits to Main St E (CSAH5).

/s/ Cris M Drais City Administrator

Dated: Jan. 3, 2019

Publish: Jan. 11, 2019

Students test design skills at Sartell robotics tournament



Pine Meadow Elementary School fourth-graders Zinnia Listug-Lunde, 10, (left) and her teammate Sabrina Dahlin, 10, work on knocking a yellow cone off a tower at a practice table Jan. 5 during the Sartell Middle School Robotics Tournament. Both girls are from Sartell.

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Dec. 19

1:15 a.m. Traffic stop. 18th Street N. An officer conducted a routine plate check and discovered the owner had a revoked license. The driver matched the description of the owner. During the stop the driver admitted to knowing he had a revoked license. The driver was cited for the infraction and the vehicle towed for lack of insurance.

Dec. 20

Midnight. Driving complaint. Riverside Avenue N. An officer was dispatched for a driving complaint from a concerned citizen about a vehicle without taillights. The officer found and stopped the vehicle. The officer advised if the taillights did not work then to use the flashing hazard lights until they reached their destination. Officer gave a verbal warning.

Dec. 21

10:10 p.m. Argument. Amber Avenue S. Officers were dispatched to a residence about a verbal dispute where screaming had been heard. Officers arrived and talked with the tenant about the argument they had with their spouse. The officer advised the resident that

if another argument were to happen to call the police so they could deescalate the argument.

Dec. 22

3 a.m. Burglary. Ninth Avenue N. Officers were dispatched to a possible burglary in progress. The resident told officers they could hear possibly two individuals attempting to make entry in their residence. The officer was assisted by a Waite Park officer and Stearns County deputy in searching the area. No forced entry was found.

Dec. 23

12:40 a.m. Suspicious vehicle. 12th Street N. Officers found a parked vehicle in the lot of a park. The officer identified the individuals in the vehicle and advised them of park hours. The individuals stated they were looking for a store. The officers gave directions to the store and released them with a warning.

Dec. 24

3:30 a.m. Assist. Sunset Avenue. An officer was dispatched to help an individual who was locked outside without shoes or coat. Officer arrived and found an intoxicated person. Officers gave the individual a ride home so they were not outside without shoes or coat.

Dec. 25

8:10 a.m. Assist. Second Street S. An officer was approached by an individual and asked if they could get a ride to another location. The officer declined but offered to call a taxi for the individual. The officer conducted a routine check on the individual and found them to have an active warrant for their ar-

rest. The officer took the individual into custody and transported the person to Stearns County Jail.

Blotter

Dec. 26

8:45 p.m. Suspicious activity. Cougar Lane. Officers were dispatched to suspicious activity about juveniles ringing doorbells and leaving in a vehicle. The officers found a vehicle matching the description given by a citizen and interviewed the juvenile occupants. The officer called the concerned citizen and told them if it happened again there would be extra patrols in the

Dec. 27

7:30 p.m. Juvenile incident. Second Avenue N. Officers were dispatched to a boy who had left his home without a shirt on. Officers located the boy and returned him home without incident.

Dec. 28

6:30 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 120. Officers saw a vehicle with expired registration. Conducting a stop, the driver stated they were unaware of the expired registration due to multiple recent moves. The officer cited the driver for expired registration and gave a warning to update the license to the current address.

Dec. 29

4:30 p.m. Shoplifting. CR 120. Officers were dispatched to a store to meet an individual who had concealed items and attempted to leave the store without paying. The individual admitting to taking the items and the officer cited the individual for the theft.

Dec. 30

12:20 a.m. Warrant. Pinecone Road N. An individual contacted authorities to turn himself in for a warrant. Officers confirmed a warrant was for the individual's arrest and took the individual into custody without incident. Individual was turned over to Stearns County Jail.

Dec. 31

1:35 a.m. Traffic stop. Connecticut Avenue S. An officer conducted a license plate check and learned the owner of a vehicle had a suspended license. After a traffic stop, the officer learned the driver had a warrant for their arrest. While seeing if any occupants had a valid driver's license, the officer found a second person also had a warrant for their arrest.

Jan. 1

3:50a.m. Domestic. Fifth Avenue N. A person reported they had been assaulted by their spouse and that the spouse was attempting to leave in a vehicle. Officers discovered several injuries to the spouse attempting to leave. The individual found to be the aggressor was arrested for domestic assault and transported to Stearns County Jail.

Jan. 2

8:30 p.m. Traffic stop. 11th Avenue NE. An officer witnessed a delivery vehicle without working taillights. The officer stopped the driver and investigated. The driver was having multiple issues with the vehicle. The officer advised the driver to activate the hazard lights and to get the vehicle back as safe ly as possible.

Jan. 3

12:45 p.m. Suspicious person. 10th Street S. Officers were called to a residence about an individual walking around taking pictures of a house. Officers arrived and interviewed the individual. The indi-

vidual was new to the country and was photographing local wildlife.

Jan. 4

7 p.m. Traffic stop. Seventh Avenue N. Officers were dispatched for a driving complaint. Officers conducted a field sobriety test on the driver and arrested them for DWI. Individual was transported to Stearns County Jail.

Jan. 5

2:25 a.m. Vehicle pursuit. Second Street S. An officer witnessed a vehicle fail to dim its headlights for oncoming traffic. When the officer tried to make a traffic stop, the driver fled. The vehicle stopped in a driveway and the driver attempted to flee on foot but was apprehended. Individual was arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail.

Jan. 6

11:10 p.m. Domestic. Bridgeport Drive. Officers were dispatched for an individual threatening a person they were in a relationship with. Officers arrived to interview the individual and they became combative. Officers arrested the individual and transported them to Stearns County Jail.

Jan. 7

12:40 a.m. Trespass. CR 120. An officer went to a business to deal with an individual who had trespassed previously. The individual stated they were aware of the trespass but went to the business anyway. The officer issued the citation for the trespass and released the individual.

Jan. 8

5:40 p.m. Theft. CR 120. An individual had been caught stealing from a business. The individual was issued a citation for the theft and a trespass from the store. The individual was released.



