

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Feb. 8, 2019
Volume 24, Issue 3
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Travel Thursday to explore Northern Spain on Feb. 21

Walking the Camino de Santiago also known as “The Way” with Pat McNeal at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 21 in the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. McNeal will share his experience hiking with friends on the medieval pilgrimage route that has sparked renewed interest from people with many different motivations (in August more than 60,000 people walked “the way”). Luckily in October those numbers were way down but the experience was remarkable from the hilly French border to the running Bulls of Pamplona to the cathedral towns of Burgos and Leon and finally to the lush green hills of Galicia and Santiago. Then take in northern Portugal and end in Porto listed as the world city to see in 2019.

Sartell Summer Baseball registration now open

The 2019 Summer Sartell Baseball Registration is open. Please go to SartellBaseball.com to register. Jersey fitting night is from 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 19 at Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

Sabres helping Sabres supports third-grader

The Sartell High School girls basketball team will host its annual Sabres Helping Sabres game at 7:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8. The team is supporting Lucy Ann Koehn, daughter of Nikki and Tim Koehn. Lucy Ann is a third-grader from Oak Ridge Elementary School. Lucy’s mom found a lump on Lucy Ann’s back that had not been there the night before. An MRI confirmed it was a tumor. Soon she had her first of what would be four surgeries. Lucy Ann was diagnosed with malignant myoepithelioma, a soft-tissue sarcoma.

This week she will begin her fourth and final round of chemo, which will then be followed by a five-week stay at Rochester Mayo for radiation.

Tell your hockey story

The Sartell Youth Hockey Association is looking for help to win as much as \$150,000 to upgrade Bernicks Pepsi Arena. The hockey boosters want community members to enter the Kraft Hockeyville Contest online and tell stories about hockey in Sartell. To submit your story, go to www.krafthockeyville.com and click “Find My Rink.” Enter MN, 56377 and Bernicks Pepsi Arena will pop up. The deadline is March 2 to submit a story.

Technology students design future

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Joe Schulte is waving a giant flag...the technology teacher calls it the flag of opportunity...for students to take classes that can lead to rewarding and well-paying careers in manufacturing and industry.

Schulte and Nick Phillips teach Sartell High School’s classes that challenge students how to size up a problem, come up with a solution and then make something that solves the problem.

The 21 classes they offer are electives and they’d like to see more students, especially girls, sign up. A majority of students don’t take technical education. The teachers would like to change that.

“I’d like to see students challenge themselves with taking classes outside their box,” Phillips said.



photo by Mike Knaak

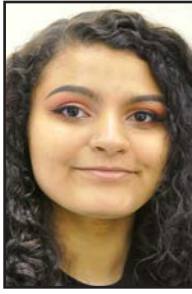
Alex Franke created an American flag by cutting and welding metal.

Students learn about processes and techniques and then roll up their sleeves and get to work.

In one of Schulte’s classes, students recently presented the prod-

ucts they made with a 3-D printer.

Sophomore Tiana Younkin is a guitar player and she has issues with loosing guitar picks. She created a holder for multiple guitar



Younkin

“I learned that people who do this daily work very hard,” Younkin said. “It’s harder than it looks. I took metals last year, I did very well. I like hands on.”

Classmate Preston McGraw tackled another practical need with his project. He designed a toilet paper holder for a person who had shoulder surgery and only had one free hand.

While presenting his project, he talked about the design process, how to evaluate solutions and identify tools to produce the

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School district to host finance session Feb. 13

Feedback gathered during community listening meetings prompted the Sartell-St. Stephen school district to schedule an information session on how schools are financed.

The district is hosting an “Understanding School Finance” session from 3:45-5 p.m on Wednesday, Feb 13, at the District Service Center.

Business Manager Joe Prom explained, “school finance, on the whole, is a complex subject. At the school board’s community listening sessions, we heard many questions

about funding sources, taxation and budgets.”

The session will provide information about how schools are funded in Minnesota, examples of mandated services the district is required to provide, and specifics on how the district spends money.

“We designed this learning opportunity as a basic overview to help provide clarity and dispel some misunderstandings,” Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert said. “We are looking forward to meeting with our school community.”

Soil tests approved for possible bridge project

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Despite vigorous opposition from Sartell City Council member Mike Chisum, the council voted 4-1 to authorize soil testing for a possible bridge to be constructed at Sauk River Regional Park in southwest Sartell.

The soil testing authorization was one of the items in the Consent Agenda at the Jan. 28 council meeting, but Chisum asked it be removed from the agenda for discussion, which the council agreed to do.

Chisum said he is opposed to a bridge in that park for a variety of reasons. According to Chisum, almost nobody in Sartell uses that park. He said he has talked to many people in the city about Sauk River Regional Park, and only one man of the many he contacted said he frequents the park.

Instead of a bridge, the \$1 million in state grant money would be better used, Chisum said, for other facilities in the park, such as a scenic overlook, kiosks, a canoe beach, a restroom, small covered shelters,

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Rebeck a statewide 'mayor' essay winner

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Aki Rebeck said when she grows up she would like to be an architect, an actress and maybe – just maybe – a mayor.

Recently, Rebeck, a Sartell Middle School fifth-grader and the daughter of Ken and Tomoko Rebeck, was one of three young students honored with a state award for her essay imagining herself as mayor of a city.

The contest, sponsored by the League of Minnesota Cities, was titled the Mayor for a Day Essay



Rebeck

and a \$100 check. Their essays were published in Minnesota Cities, a publication of the League.

The essays were judged for creativity, originality and legibility.

Aki said she was surprised when her mother told her she’d

Contest. More

than 450 students in grades five and six entered the contest. The three top winners were presented with a plaque

won the contest.

“I was happy, but I really didn’t expect to win,” she said.

Her parents are both very proud of her, as is her younger sister, Sara.

The following is Aki’s award-winning essay:

If I were mayor for a day, I would make sure everything is going safely and smoothly in town.

First, I would provide lots of decent-sized parks in different neighborhoods so everyone who lives in the neighborhoods could walk or bike to the park.

Secondly, I would make sure streets and sidewalk are in good condition and smooth so everyone has a smooth surface to bike, drive, walk or run, etc.

Next, I would have lots of city events so then people can come and have some fun and meet new people.

Also, I would make sure there are things to do in our city, like, for example, more kiddie pools, pools for older kids, splash pads, dog parks, parks, trails and more so people can enjoy life outside.

Finally, I would make shelters for people who don’t have homes.


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photo by Mike Knaak
Senior Cameron Nelson practices welding.

Technology

from front page

holder. The presentation included how he'd price the device and market it.

"I learned how to use engineering concepts and 3-D to solve problems," McGraw said.

Next door in Phillips' metals class, Cameron Nelson was welding behind a protective screen.

"I've always been a hands-on person," Nelson said. "I like building stuff. My grandfather was a carpenter and woodworker."

Nelson, who has taken six technology classes, said he's looking for a career in metal fabrication.

"I value problem-solving and practical experience in how to troubleshoot," he said.

Not all student projects solved practical problems. Alex Franke created a metal flag out of cut pieces of metal that needed to be welded.

"I wanted to learn about metal," Franke said. "I do things outdoors and I wanted to learn how to do day-to-day stuff."

Schulte and Phillips work closely with an advisory group that includes local manufacturers. The instructors work to integrate their



photo by Mike Knaak
Student Cameron Nelson discusses class plans with teacher Nick Phillips.

students in the working world with activities such as internships.

Schulte and Phillips are looking ahead to what they will be able to offer students at the new high school opening in the fall.

Their department will be in the center of the building, instead of a far-off corner where it is now, with open walls so their work will be visible.

"We'll still be working in shops," Schulte said. "We'll be getting dirty at times."

Plans call for some more new advanced classes and collaboration with teachers from other departments.

The art department will be next door and one of the new collaborative classes will be metal art sculpture that will blur the line between art and technology.

And they hope the class will attract more female students.

Other new classes cover small

engines and advanced design.

The new learning space, Schulte and Phillips believe, will help move the needle and attract more students. They also are passionate about the career possibilities that flow from tech. ed.

"We hear it from industry," Schulte said. "We need prob-

lem-solvers, critical thinking."

Sophomore Franke summed it up: He's thinking about a medical career or physical therapy "or maybe engineering. These are lots of skills you can use later in life."

For more photos and a video, look for this story at www.thenewsleaders.com.

Sartell Swarm

Registration for 2019 Summer Season
Girls ages 6-18 fastpitch softball

For more information and to register, go to www.sartellfastpitch.com.

Registration is now open through 2/18/19.
New this year: teams formed by grade for school year 2019-2020.



Contact Angela Swenson
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"I congratulate James on behalf of LPL," said Andy Kalbaugh, LPL managing director and divisional president, National Sales and Consulting. "We applaud his dedication to clients and his ability to nurture trusted relationships with clients to help them work toward their financial goals. We thank James for his continuous commitment to the independent model, which enables the delivery of objective financial advice, and for the opportunity to be their enabling partner. We wish James continued success."

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Call for bids authorized for east-side reconstruction

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell City Council unanimously approved a call for bids for the long-anticipated 2019 East Side Reconstruction Project.

April Ryan, an engineer with Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. presented a slide show of the project at the Jan. 28 City Council meeting.

The project, estimated to cost about \$7.7 million, will involve the following: full reconstruction of some storm sewers and water mains; street milling and paving overlays;

some curb-and-gutter repair; a partial reconstruction of Scott Drive; a few alleys reconstructed from gravel to paving; a full reconstruction of some streets, including widening of some, along with fixes to sanitary sewer lines and water mains, and more. The project will involve almost every area of the east side of Sartell.

In approving the call for bids, council members highly praised the engineering firm for working so well with east-side residents. The entire project was the result of the engineers tailoring the reconstruction needs to the wants of

the residents. Many meetings took place for input from residents, and plans were altered to accommodate their opinions, such as not making some streets so wide and going to extra lengths to protect the small-town ambience of the east-side residential area.

Council member Tim Elness said he talked with many east-side residents who are “very happy” about the project.

Work will begin in four phases starting this spring and summer. The final phase will be completed in the summer of 2020.

Soil from front page

a kayak landing, trail paving and other amenities.

A bridge would likely be a target for vandalism, and it would be dangerous if young people would jump off it into the water, jeopardizing their lives, Chisum added. The bridge now in that park, one that connects the park to St. Cloud, has been frequently vandalized and covered with graffiti, Chisum noted.

Chisum said the city council pondered building a bridge at that park, but there was never any passionate commitment about the proposal.

“It just kind of faded away, and I’m kind of glad it did,” he said.

Sauk River Regional Park, across the street from Epic Center, was declared a regional park in 2014. It is comprised of 44 acres of woodland with the Sauk River running through part of it. The proposed bridge (for hiking, biking) would be about 450 feet long and eight-feet wide. It would connect the largest part of the park with 14 acres on the other side of the Sauk River. That 14-acre portion of the park is almost impossible to gain access to without a bridge.

Currently, there are un-

paved trails throughout the park, a paved parking lot and some information signs. With the help of Rep. Tim O’Driscoll (R-Sartell), a \$1-million grant was secured from the state some years ago. That grant, however, must be used for amenities in the park, or the city will have to forfeit it.

City Engineer Jon Halter said there has never been a firm consensus by the council for building that bridge but that preliminary work should be done, such as soil borings, just in case the council should decide to construct the bridge. The total cost, he said, would likely be about \$750,000.

Council member Tim Elness said he is in favor of the bridge. It would be a vital part of the infrastructure so other amenities could be added later. In time, the bridge and amenities would hopefully attract many more individuals and groups to the scenic park.

Mayor Ryan Fitzthum said he is open to adding amenities such as a scenic overlook and kayak landing area but that any amenities must be chosen carefully to protect the natural beauty of the park.

After further discussion, the council authorized the soil testing for a possible bridge. If the council decides definitely to build a bridge, work on the project could begin this fall, Halter noted.

Editor wins opinion writing award

Newsleaders Editor Mike Knaak won a first-place award for editorial writing from the Minnesota Newspaper Association.

The award was in the Editorial Portfolio category with

competition among the state’s more than 250 weekly newspapers.

The entry included a collection of five editorials published in the past year. The award recognizes overall ex-



cellence in locally written editorials and sustained quality as reflected by a broad sample of the newspaper’s editorials. Judges consider the editorials’ significance to the community, sound reasoning, power to influence public opinion and clarity.

There were more than 4,100 entries in all contest categories. The awards were announced Jan. 24 in Bloomington.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING
ON STREET IMPROVEMENTS
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Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of St. Stephen will meet in the Council Chambers of the St. Stephen City Hall at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6, 2019, to consider the making of street improvements on Sixth Avenue SE from County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 (Main Street East) south to the St. Stephen city limits by reconstruction to a 30-foot wide or a 32-foot wide rural road consisting of two 11- or 12-foot wide driving lanes and two 4-foot wide paved shoulders of the above street and replacement of the deteriorated CMP driveway and centerline culverts, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§429.011 to 429.111. The estimated total cost of the improvement is \$2,376,750. A reasonable estimate of the cost of the assessment will be available at the hearing. Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed improvement will be heard at this meeting.

/s/ Cris M Draais
City Clerk

Dated: Jan. 28, 2019

Publish: Feb. 8 & 22, 2019

People

Avita Regan, a licensed esthetician and laser technician, joined the medical team at The Vein Center Laser Treatment & MedSpa, 1990 Connecticut Ave. S. in Sartell. With 19 years of advanced skin care treatment experience, Regan holds licences in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Colorado.



Regan

Two Sartell students have been named to the fall semester dean’s list at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The students are **Tyler Kadlec** and **Nicole Lindmeier**.

Alexander Holt of Sartell has enrolled at Carleton College, Northfield, as a member of the class of 2022.

William Bachman of Sartell graduated with highest honors

from Montana State University, Bozeman, on Dec. 15. To graduate with highest honors, students must have a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.70.

Six Sartell students have been named to the dean’s list for fall semester at University of Wisconsin-Madison. To be eligible for the dean’s list, students must complete a minimum of 12 degree credits. The students are: **Claire Boschee, Brandon Carlson, Holly Greer, Morgan Gugger, Ethan Hanson** and **Nicholas Juntunen**.

Four Sartell students have been named to the dean’s list at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth. The students are: **Emily Crilly, Kelly Murphy, Tonya Paul** and **Sarah Symanietz**. Dean’s list members have achieved a 3.75 grade-point average or higher.

Heather Wensel of Sartell graduated from Minnesota State Community and Technical Col-

lege after fall semester. She received an associated degree in management, marketing and sales.

Michael Nistler of St. Stephen was named to the fall semester dean’s list at North Dakota State University. To qualify a student must earn a 3.50 grade-point average and be enrolled in 12 class credits.

Four Sartell students have been named to the fall semester dean’s list at Gustavus Adolphus College. To qualify, students earn a 3.7 grade-point average.

The students are **Alexandra Florea, Lindsey Martens, Laura Schwichtenberg** and **Michael Volgman-Mercuri**.

Trevor Skinner of St. Stephen was named to the fall semester president’s list at Minnesota State Community and Technical College. To qualify, a student must maintain a minimum 3.5 grade-point average.

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, Feb. 8
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Sabres Helping Sabres Cancer Game, 7:15 p.m., Sartell High Schools girls basketball game. The team is supporting Lucy Ann Koehn who is being treated for cancer.

Sunday, Feb. 10
Project Astride Benefit Breakfast and Silent Auction, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Moose Family Center, 1300 Third St. N., Waite Park.

Monday, Feb. 11
Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

Tuesday, Feb. 12
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, 3 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. “Culp’s Hill at Gettysburg,” John Cox.
St. Stephen Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m. 2 Sixth Ave. SE. St. Stephen. 320-251-0964.
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.

Wednesday, Feb. 13
Stearns History Museum Breakfast Club, 9 a.m. Tom Smude will discuss Smude’s Sunflower Oil. Free for members, nominal fee for nonmembers. 235 33rd Ave. S.
Understanding School Finance, 3:45-5 p.m., Sartell-St. Stephen District Service Center, 212 Third Ave. N. The session will provide information about how schools are funded in Minnesota.

St. Cloud Friends of the Library annual meeting, 7 p.m., St. Cloud Public Library, 1300 St. Germain St., St. Cloud.

Thursday, Feb. 14
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Topic: CentraCare Heart and Vascular Center.

Saturday, Feb. 16
Community meal, 11:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S. Free.
Ice Fishing Contest, sponsored by the St. Joseph Rod & Gun Club, noon-2:30 p.m., Kraemer Lake, St. Joseph. Restrooms and warming house available. 320-363-8803 or 320-251-2881. stjoerodandgunclub.org.

Cocoa with a Cop, 1-4 p.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S.

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

Monday, Feb. 18
St. Cloud Area Parkinson’s Disease Support Group, 1-2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids.

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

Tuesday, Feb. 19
Memory Writers group develops topics and turns in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.

Alzheimer’s and dementia information meeting, 1 p.m., The Sanctuary, 2410 20th Ave. SE., St. Cloud.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 20
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.

Thursday, Feb. 21
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.
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.
Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.

2019

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER ROCKS.

St. Francis Xavier CATHOLIC SCHOOL

with GREGORY JAMES BAND

Live Band | Silent Auction | Cash Bar | Food | Fund A Need

February 23rd, 2019
6-7 pm - Happy Hour
7-11 pm - The Gregory James Band
St. Francis Xavier School Gym, Sartell

THIS IS A 21 & OVER EVENT VALID ID REQUIRED

\$20/person
Early Bird
through Feb. 11th

\$30/person
starting Feb. 12th

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CENTRAL MN
Idol

Featuring:
Justin Ploof
Jeff Engholm
Janelle Kendall
Grant Haake

SUNDAY
FEB 24TH
7:00PM
PARAMOUNT CENTER FOR THE ARTS
ST. CLOUD, MN

99.9
more FM

CMAB
Central MN Arts Board

"This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Central MN Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund."

Opinion

Our View During extreme cold, more chilling news for Minnesotans

In the midst of the coldest weather in 25 years, Minnesotans heard more chilling news on Jan. 29 from the country's top spies.

Buried in the national intelligence chiefs' 42-page assessments of worldwide threats were several paragraphs that demand urgent attention.

The report says Russia and China have the ability to cripple gas and electric supplies now. Utilities and government need to harden these systems or last week's cold weather could become deadly instead of just inconvenient.

One Page 5, the report says: "China has the ability to launch cyber attacks that cause localized, temporary disruptive effects on critical infrastructure – such as disruption of a natural gas pipeline for days to weeks – in the United States."

On the next page, the Russian threat is clear: "Russia has the ability to execute cyber attacks in the United States that generate localized, temporary disruptive effects on critical infrastructure – such as disrupting an electrical distribution network for at least a few hours...Moscow is mapping our critical infrastructure with the long-term goal of being able to cause substantial damage."

China and Russia could cripple parts of the country without launching one missile or deploying one soldier. A few keystrokes could deliver more damage than ships and tanks.

When natural gas service failed in Princeton during the cold snap, about 150 Xcel customers experienced what life would be like without heat. Unanticipated demand for natural gas led to a drop in pressure and the utility cut off service to isolate the problem. To avoid even more outages, the utility asked customers across the state to lower their thermostats to 63 degrees.

Law enforcement and Xcel workers went door to door to make sure everyone was alright. Some people fled to hotels or stayed with friends. Xcel handed out electric space heaters so residents could keep water pipes from freezing.

But what would happen if, during extremely cold weather, the Russians or Chinese cut gas service not just to 150 customers but to an entire city or region. Imagine what would happen if, along with cutting gas service, enemies also crippled the electric grid? Electric space heaters would be useless. Fleeing to a hotel or a public space such as a school for shelter would be useless. There would be no power there either.

As the report says, the disruption could last for "days to weeks."

What would you do? Where would you go to keep warm?

The danger faces not only the frozen North in the winter. Imagine life in Phoenix on a July day when the temperature hits 110 degrees and there's no air conditioning and no pumps to keep the tap water flowing.

Let's not wait until we're all huddled in the cold to focus on this threat.

Here's an idea for Donald Trump and the Congress. Instead of spending \$25 billion on a third-century style wall that will take more than 10 years to build, let's spend \$25 billion hardening our power supplies from foreign attack. That's a real national emergency.

Future professional journalists honored at difficult time

Mike Knaak
Editor



ing.

I was especially proud of two winners from St. Cloud State University – Jessie Wade and Maddie MacFarlane. The two women won awards for their photo work. They were students in a photojournalism class I taught at SCSU.

The job crisis in journalism is not the result of a lack or demand for news. On the contrary, with print as well as digital platforms publishing the news, the audience is larger than ever.

People are consuming more news, but publishers have not yet figured out a profitable business model for the digital world.

Traditionally, advertising covered about three-fourths of a newspaper's budget with the rest coming from subscriptions. Advertisers paid to put their products and services in front of the eyeballs who came to read the news.

With online news, all that changed. Print advertising dollars turned to dimes and nickels on the web. Read-

ers who were willing to pay for paper tossed on their doorstep balked at online subscriptions for news they expected to read for free.

Of course, online news isn't free to the reader. You pay for internet access, your \$1,000 iPhone and you put up with advertising on Google where you "find" your news. Google makes billions on advertising while the publishers who provide those stories people eagerly find get zilch from Google.

More and more communities are becoming news deserts where the local paper has either shut down or drastically reduced staff.

The big national papers, the New York Times and the Washington Post, are doing well thanks to digital subscriptions from the entire nation.

There are working journalists — skilled, experienced, dedicated reporters, editors, photographers — who are doing their best to serve you, while a beleaguered news industry tries to find a path to a sustainable future.

They are the only people who are watching city hall, examining how your tax dollars are spent and how your children are being educated.

Will those talented college journalists be able to attend an MNA dinner 40 years from now to accept another award for their work?

Make political campaigns shorter

Connor Kockler
Guest Writer



structive discussion about the direction we want our country to take, 2016 and many other elections have turned into exercises of stunning partisanship and finger-pointing.

I personally believe the growing length of our campaigns is contributing to this bad environment. As campaigns keep getting longer, there are fewer days where the media and our country are focused on things other than the coming election. As politics continues to creep into more and more sectors of everyday life, eventually this might shift into an instant switch from one election campaign to another, without much thought about the governing and unifying that should be taking place after the latest election.

Though increased politicization has been a growing trend throughout the world, there is something markedly different the United States could adopt from abroad. This is the idea of a fixed election campaign. Fixed election campaigns mean activities such as advertisements can only occur during the campaign itself. Our northern neighbor Canada had an above-average campaign in 2015, of 78 days. This number doesn't come close to the years that are spent building up to our presidential elec-

tions.

Shorter, fixed-length election campaigns can have great benefits. By putting most election activities into a tight window, it focuses the public's attention on the election a few weeks before. People aren't pelted with political advertisements from the beginning of the year, and voter apathy and disengagement can be decreased as people don't feel like things are dragging on forever.

Campaigns can benefit from this as well. Since they can only put out their ads within the time frame, they don't have to gather such large sums of money to pay for years-long ad campaigns, and they'll be fresher in the voters' minds as Election Day approaches. This would also allow people with less monetary resources to be able to mount credible campaigns, reducing the advantage of large amounts of money being put into elections by Super PACs.

Most of all though, it would allow us to have less drawn out, dividing election campaigns and focus on a relatively small time frame that allows citizens to stay engaged and know when things are going to happen. All of the debates and television ads would start on one day, and be over once the votes are being counted. We could spend less time fighting each other and more time focusing on what really matters.

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

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

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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 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space.

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

The Newsleaders

1622 11th Ave S.

St. Cloud, MN 56304

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEC. 17, 2018
SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

The public hearing for the proposed 2018 payable 2019 levy started at 6:01 p.m. called by Chair Jason Nies. Members present: Nies; Mary McCabe, vice chair; Pamela Raden, clerk; Jeremy Snoberger, treasurer; Lesa Kramer, director; Patrick Marushin, director; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Members absent: none.

Business Manager Joseph Prom reviewed the 2018 payable 2019 levy materials including the 2018-2019 budget, types of levies and property-tax calculations.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEC. 17, 2018
SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Jason Nies. Members present: Nies, chair; Mary McCabe, vice chair; Pamela Raden, clerk; Jeremy Snoberger, treasurer; Lesa Kramer, director; Patrick Marushin, director; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Members absent: none.

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

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

- a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on Nov. 19, 2018
- Minutes of the board work session held on Nov. 19, 2018
- Minutes of the board work session held on Dec. 12, 2018

b. Checks in the amount of \$1,989,644.03 as presented:

General Fund	1,596,446.43
Food Service Fund	158,504.43
Transportation Fund	126,260.29
CommunityService Fund	42,388.74
Capital Expenditure Fund	26,826.02
Debt Service Fund	28,050.14
Summer Recovery Agency Fund	11,167.98
Check numbers 173774 - 174063	

Receipts in the amount of \$4,538,589.92 as presented:

General Fund	2,340,384.20
Food Service Fund	252,530.22
Transportation Fund	28,619.89
Community Service Fund	134,479.65
Building Fund	11,301.90
Debt Service Fund	1,746,524.06
Scholarship Trust	750.00
Summer Rec Agency Fund	24,000.00
Receipts 45318 - 45443	

Wire transfers in the amount of \$8,174.55 as presented:

General Fund	1,272.19
Food Service Fund	5,752.95
Community Serivce Fund	1,149.41
Wire transfers 201800036-201800040	

Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$3,288,186.77 as presented:

Building Fund	3,288,186.77
Check numbers 600405 to 600427	

c. Accept the following donations Garrett Counter, Sartell High School, \$174.27, JR tire/sheel/hub sssembly; Central Minnesota Builders Association, ISD #748, \$500, Tools for Schools; Oak Ridge Elementary PTO, ISD #748, \$750, Grandparents’ Day.

d. Accept the resignation of Valerie Gruba, ORE, student supervisor, 12/1/18; Carrie Kadoun, ORE, para, 12/31/18; Stacy Steil-Anderson, SHS, FACS, 12/3/18. Accept the release of employment of Laura Becker-Pallister, SMS, part-time cleaner, 12/17/18 and Chris Euteneuer, SHS, para, 11/21/18.

e. Approve resolution establishing combined polling places for multiple precincts and designating hours during which the polling places will remain open for voting for school district elections not held on the day of a statewide election.

Student Representative Report: Eli Lawson, student representative

Lawson reported on happenings around the district. Oak Ridge had more than 700 grandparents in attendance on Grandparents’ Day. Pine Meadow will host Bingo night this Friday to close out Winter Wonderland week. The Middle School Student Council made holiday cards for the troops overseas and had more than 80 families at their family math night event. Middle School student, Annabelle Trombley won the United Way essay contest. The High School Student Council collected more than 60 bags of food for the Thanksgiving food drive and NHS raised \$4,000 for families in needs. The band concert was last Monday and the choir concert is tonight. There will be a teddy bear toss at hockey tomorrow night and the week ends with Tom Bearson night at the boys’ and girls’ basketball games Friday night.

Superintendent Report: Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent

Schwiebert reported the next board meeting will be the organizational meeting and the date will be confirmed tonight. The board will need to have a committee look into the topic of fundraising in relation to the rise of GoFundMe’s popularity. This has been a no in the past, but needs to be reviewed. Congratulations to Director of Technology Kyle Breitreutz in being awarded the Sourcewell Technology (formerly TIES) Minnesota Leader of the Year Award. This is a direct reflection of his and all district technology staff’s abilities.

Construction Manager Report on Building Process:

Construction Manager Lee Gruen reported there are more than 100 workers on average at the worksite who will be served a thank you luncheon this week. Painting continues on the upper walls in the gymnasium and they are preparing for equipment deliveries in mid-January. In the pool area baffles are being readied, tile work is continuing and the locker room masonry is finishing up in preparation for painting. Painting and drywall continue throughout the building with areas four and five having complete sheetrock by Dec. 31. OSHA completed a site visit which went very well.

School Board Commit-

tee Report:

Treasurer Snoberger reported on the recent Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (CIA) meeting he attended.

Director Kramer reported the Drug Free Coalition meeting was well attended last week and attended the TARGET club meeting on Dec. 5.

Sartell High School Technology Education Report:

Nick Phillips and Joe Schulte, SHS technology education teachers, presented an overview of the technology education spaces in the new building and shared enhanced learning opportunities the new space will provide.

Enrollment Report:

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

A motion was made by McCabe and seconded by Raden to APPROVE #1-13:

New Employees/Changes:

Megumi Burdick, SMS, food service worker, \$15.27/hour, RI, S1, three hours/day, replacing Nazlah Krenzolak, 11/29/2018; Tracy Christian, PME, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, new position, TBD; Maria Davis, ORE, student supervisor, \$13.73/hour, RI, S1, two hours/day, replacing Valerie Gruba, 12/4/2018; Anna Forberg, SHS, nordic ski, \$1,824 (9.5 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), 50-percent contract, new position, 11/12/2018; Valerie Gruba, SHS, cashier, \$15.27/hour, RI, S1, three hours/day, replacing Sasha Doeden, 11/28/2018; Nathan Keller, SHS, assistant lacrosse, \$3,208 (8.35 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Lidner/ Rutten, 4/1/2019; Trevor Nordlund, SHS, swim/diving, \$3,029 (9.5 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), 83-percent contract, replacing Madi Molitor, 12/3/2018; Clayton Teff, SHS, nordic ski, \$1,824 (9.5 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), 50-percent contract, new position, 11/12/2018; Cynthia VanderWeyst, SHS, para – Level IV, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, seven hours/day, replacing Chris Euteneuer, 1/2/2019; Madelyn Zinken, SHS, assistant girls’ golf, \$2,823 (7.35 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Marty Anderson, 3/18/2019.

New Employees Pending Licensure:

Christian Pekarek,

SMS, math, \$24,731, BA, 0 (\$38,410), .6126 FTE, new position, 12/10/2018; Jennifer Puncochar, SHS, LTS physical education/health, \$19,631, BA, 0 (\$38,410), .4863 FTE, replacing Cody Rose, 1/21/19- 5/31/19; Nathan Schultz, SHS, LTS physical education/health, \$19,631, BA, 0 (\$38,410), .4863 FTE, replacing Karl Scharnweber, 1/21/19- 5/31/19.

Leaves of Absence:

None.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by Kramer to APPROVE BOYS BASKETBALL AND BASEBALL TEAM FUND-RAISERS. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE PROPOSED 2019-2020 ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR SARTELL-ST.STEPHEN SCHOOL ISD 748. Nies, Raden, Snoberger, Marushin and Kramer in favor. Nay vote by McCabe. Motion carried 5-1.

A motion was made by McCabe and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE CLERICAL, PARAPROFESSIONAL, 284 MULTI-UNIT, CERTIFIED STAFF & ECFE SENIORITY LISTS. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE PARAMETERS FOR EARLY RETIREMENT NOTICE INCENTIVE AS PRESENTED. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by McCabe and seconded by Raden to APPROVE THE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2018 PAYABLE 2019 PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,194,085.83. All in favor. Motion carried.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Organizational Meeting – Monday, Jan. 7 – District Services Center @ 6:30 p.m.

Board Work Session – Monday, Jan. 7 – District Services Center @ 7 p.m.

Future Board Meeting - TBD

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:27 p.m. was made by McCabe and seconded by Kramer. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Pamela Raden, Clerk

Publish: Feb. 8, 2019

Blotter

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

Jan. 23

7:30 p.m. Theft. Pinecone Road. A theft from a business was reported. Officers took information from the business owner to include video evidence. Officers investigated the matter and located the individual who took the items. Officers left the ticket with the parent he was staying with.

Jan. 24

12:15 a.m. Traffic stop. Hwy. 15. Officers witnessed a vehicle operating on the road with a broken taillight. Officers stopped the vehicle and warned

the driver about the broken tail light.

Jan. 25

9:10 a.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue S. An officer witnessed a vehicle travelling at a high rate of speed on Riverside. The officer stopped the driver and issued a speeding citation.

Jan. 26

9:55 p.m. Traffic stop. Eighth Street N. An officer conducted a stop for failing to follow a traffic device. The officer witnessed drug paraphernalia from outside of the vehicle. The driver gave the officer a false name. The driver was found to have multiple warrants for their arrest. Both individuals had controlled substances in their possession. They were arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail.

Jan. 27

4:30 a.m. DWI. CR 120. When officers arrived at a vehicle crash, they saw people leaving the scene on foot. The

individuals admitted to driving the crashed vehicle and both smelled of alcohol. The driver was arrested for DWI and leaving the scene of an accident.

Jan. 28

9:55 a.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue S. A search of license plates turned up a missing individual. Officers stopped the vehicle and found the missing individual who had a probation violation order. Officers took the individual into custody and transported them to Stearns County Jail.

Jan. 29

3:45 p.m. Suspicious smell. First Street NE. Officers were dispatched to the strong smell of marijuana within a residence. Officers found where they believed the smell came from and interviewed the occupant. The occupant admitted to smoking marijuana earlier and was warned it is still illegal and would be cited if found in possession.

IN THE NAME OF LOVE

word search

T E T S O U V A Y R E W O T U B S Y L H V G K S V
S N V G W Q M H M O Z K Z Z E G I L D I W V J W Q
N J E T N O H B Y I X C I W L N I E Y R R N A N F
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ENTRY FORM

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Find the words listed below the word search. Send the completed form to the newspaper office at 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, Minn. 56304 by noon Wednesday, Feb. 13 or email advertising@thenewsleaders.com. The first correctly-completed form to be drawn will win a Valentine's Day gift basket. Winners will be notified by phone by 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14. Participants must be 18 years of age. Employees of the newspaper are not eligible to participate in this contest.

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