

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, April 5, 2019
Volume 24, Issue 7
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Farmers’ market to be open Saturday

Sartell Farmers’ Market will be open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 6 at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell. Some of the items you will find this month include the following: eggs, meat, canned goods, caramel corn, treats, honey, salsa, BBQ sauce and much more. Also learn what is new for the upcoming summer market season.

City seeks part-time help

The City of Sartell is looking for paid part-time building/cleaning attendants. If interested, job description and information are available at City Hall or at www.sartellmn.com. Positions will remain open until filled.

Sartell Summer Baseball registration is still open

Late registration for 3rd grade and up is still open for a limited time. K-2 league full registration is open. Register today at Sartell-Baseball.com! Gopher State travel players’ jersey pick-up starts at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 9 at Celebration Lutheran Church.

Attention parents of 2019 graduates

Parents of 2019 grads, please be aware your student should have received an email from the school with a link to an online form to collect bio information to be included in the 2019 Grad Tab publishing in the May 31 edition of the Newsleader. Deadline to submit these forms is Friday, May 3. Please check in with your student to ensure they turn the information in in a timely manner. Home-schooled students or those attending schools other than Sartell High School are also encouraged to submit their name, parents’ names, school they’re graduating from and future plans to be included separately in the May 31 edition.

Sartell businesses – the police need your help

The Sartell Police Department and Stearns County Sheriff’s Office is trying to develop a map of all locations with an AED; if you have one in or near your business, please let them know the following three questions:

- Do you have an AED in your business
- Is it available to the public
- Where is it located within the business.

Please send an email to publicsafety@sartellmn.com with the information above and put AED in the heading.

Finally, lake-river drawdown set to begin

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

After years of planning and a red-light delay of one year, it’s now a green-light go for a water-level drawdown at Little Rock Lake near Rice and the Mississippi River north of Sartell.

The Department of Natural Resources announced this week that the drawdown will take place starting on Aug. 1 and end on Sept. 15.

The drawdown will involve lowering the level of the lake and river by three feet by gradually opening the hydroelectric dam at Sartell. It will affect most directly dozens of residents who live by the lake and on the river shore north of Sartell.

The drawdown is expected to improve water quality in Little Rock Lake and the river,



photo by Mike Knaak

The drawdown of the Mississippi River north of the Sartell dam has been scheduled for August.

as well as give a boost to fish populations and healthy vegetation growth. For years, Little Rock Lake has been plagued with algal blooms at times so bad they pose dangers to animals and even children. By drawing down the water level, many parts of the lake (and riv-

er) will be exposed to air, killing off the bad vegetation and boosting beneficial vegetation. The drawdown is also expected to prevent future erosion problems in some areas of the lake and river.

This is the first time a drawdown will have been undertak-

en in the area, although drawdowns of lakes, rivers, streams have been done elsewhere in the state throughout the years.

The drawdown had been planned to start last summer, but in July, shortly before the start-up date, the DNR was notified that first there had to be a cultural-resource study completed in the affected area. That study involves taking into account the habitation through the history of American Natives in the area, such as evidence of artifacts and/or burial sites. The cultural review by the Minnesota Historical Preservation organization is expected to be done this summer by the end of July at the latest.

The drawdown has been a topic of controversy since it was first proposed six years ago. Many informational public meetings were held in the area

Lake-river • page 2

After levy defeat, school board to vote on budget cuts

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell-St. Stephen school board is expected to vote Monday, April 8, on a list of budget cuts and revenue increases proposed by district leadership. The cuts and search for increased revenue come after voters rejected an operational levy last fall.

The cuts and revenue increases would total at least \$1.25 million and in addition, the district would spend about \$500,000 from its General Fund balance.

The meeting is set for 6:30

p.m. at the district office, 212 Third Ave. N.

The board is also studying whether to ask voters to approve another operational levy in fall 2019. That decision could come in May, according to Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert.

"Starting back in January, we went through a process of starting to spread the pain across the district, with as little impact on kids as possible," Schwiebert said. "We went out to staff and asked for suggestions, had a couple of meetings, and I made a recommendation to the board. They’ve looked at it three different times."

In a statement posted on the district’s Facebook account, the board said "These budgetary adjustments are painful but are necessary in light of our current budget situation. The Sartell-St. Stephen school district has a strong academic reputation and we do not want these reductions to have a significant impact on students. Our school district also has a long tradition of making do, but we must have additional revenue to continue our tradition of excellence."

The list of expense cuts and revenue increases proposed at the March 18 board meeting

include:

Transportation

- Change in routing contract
- Reduction of two p.m. routes with bell time change
- Opt-in busing Grades nine-12

Savings: \$70,000

Administrative

- Reduction of supervisor of Building & Grounds
- Reduction of district office clerical position
- Reduction in contract for associate activities director
- Administrative cabinet salary Freeze (4 positions)

Savings: \$180,000

School • page 7

Pine Point now has AED Save station

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

There are 48 neighbors who live in the Pine Point area of Sartell, and no one knows when or if one of them will have to use an automated external defibrillator stored at the neighborhood’s new “AED Save” station.

Of course, everyone hopes they will never have to use it, but they are glad it’s there – just in case.

Sudden cardiac arrest can happen anyplace, anywhere. For example, about a month

ago a man dropped his daughter off for school at the Sartell-St. Stephen school district office for pre-school classes. The man had just left the building when Lori Traut, a paraprofessional, noticed he had collapsed outside the building. The staff called 911. Meantime, Kris O’Brien, director of Sartell-St. Stephen Community Education, grabbed an automated external defibrillator and ran out to the downed man. She opened the AED, listened to its verbal prompts, placed the paddle on the man’s chest and delivered a shock that started

the man’s heart pumping again. The man, now doing fine, returned to the school once he fully recovered to thank everyone who helped save his life.

O’Brien shared the story at a Sartell Chamber of Commerce meeting about a month ago.

What is it?

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a small, portable machine that delivers an electrical shock to a person who has been stricken by sudden cardiac arrest. That hap-

AED • page 2



contributed photo

This is the Pine Point neighborhood sign along the major road leading from Sartell to Rice. Note the directional sign pointing to the AED Save station.

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

Lake-river AED

from front page

for input from lake-and-river residents. Some opposed the plan; others welcomed it, but gradually a consensus emerged that it is probably worth a try.

The project is spearheaded by Eric Altena, DNR Area Fisheries supervisor, Little Falls office. At public meetings, Altena shared knowledge of what residents can expect during the draw-down. There will be an unpleasant odor from rotting vegetation, fishing will be allowed during the drawdown, “no wake” signs will be posted, residents will be allowed to rake the sandy area exposed at shorelines and clean-up efforts will be undertaken by volunteers.

Altena also said people should be prepared to boat cautiously because there will be exposed rocks or other obstacles exposed or just beneath the water line.

from front page

pens when the electrical system in the heart goes haywire and suddenly stops the heart from pumping. Death is certain within 10 minutes, at most, unless cardiopulmonary resuscitation is administered and/or a defibrillator is used. Each AED gives voice prompts about how to use it.

Save stations

AEDs are now common in public places such as schools, athletic fields, law-enforcement stations, squad cars, ambulances and hospitals. However, they are unfortunately off limits to the general public, especially after hours when they are inaccessible in locked-up buildings.

That is why the concept of AED Save stations began. Save stations are secured “boxes” that can be placed in neighborhoods or other spaces. Each contains an AED that can be used right there or taken from the box to be used elsewhere in a crisis. The boxes are protected by an automatic system from hot and cold extremes of weather; each

has an alarm system; and each box can automatically send an alarm to neighbors when an emergency occurs (triggered when the box is opened and defibrillator removed).



Feneis

How many?

So far, there are three AED Save stations in the greater St. Cloud area – two in St. Cloud, one in Sartell. In the first half of this year, there has been a concerted effort by many people who hope to install at least 25 more stations.

Rich Feneis, a retired owner of a sign company, lives in Sartell's Pine Point neighborhood and spearheaded the move to get the Pine Point Save station.

Feneis arrived at the subject of AEDs in a roundabout way. A long-time friend is Joel Vogel of St. Joseph, who is a member of the Mending Hearts organization. Vogel, a true believer in AEDs, suggested Feneis apply for a Save station grant to CentraCare Health Foundation. Two other friends, both of St. Cloud and Feneis's golfing buddies – Jeff Skumautz and Dan Schirmers – also inspired Feneis. Those two men raised funds and started the ball rolling to get the two Save stations now installed in St. Cloud.

Feneis heard about AED Save stations in the Centerville, Iowa, parks system. He made some calls and heard rave reviews about the stations.

CentraCare Health is a strong supporter of the Save stations, and it began a pilot program to install – at first – just three Save stations in the area. It is coordinated by Sharon Mentzer of CentraCare's Heart and Vascular Center. Those three stations are the first outdoor stations, accessible 24/7, in Minnesota.

Feneis started a fundraising effort. Fully 70 percent of Pine Point residents contributed a total of \$5,500 – enough to buy the concrete support, the smart cabinet inside the station's box and electrical lines to the station. The grant from CentraCare provided the rest, including the AED itself.

As part of its ongoing pi-

lot program, CentraCare also schedules CPR training sessions, many of them taught by cardiac-arrest survivors. Recently, a CentraCare-sponsored training session at Sartell Community Center attracted 25 learners.

Feneis said he is astonished at how many people and organizations are expressing interest and support for the AED stations. They include the Metro Lions, scouting groups, law enforcement (such as Stearns County Sheriff Steve Soyka) and virtually anybody who hears about or sees the stations. Their reactions are often, “Why didn't somebody think of this before?”

Feneis predicts the AED Save stations will someday soon become as common as telephone booths – or well, as common as telephone booths used to be, once upon a time.

A next logical step, Feneis said, is to get people to learn the Save station locations. At Pine Point in Sartell, for instance, the red-white-black AED logo was placed on the large prominent Pine Point sign on the main road leading from Sartell to Rice. The logo, a red heart with lightning zig-zag in its middle, has a black arrow pointing down the side road to where the Save station is located.

Learn, learn, learn

AED advocates all emphasize that knowledge is power, and the more people learn about heart problems, CPR and AEDs the more lives will be saved. Even children should be taught CPR and how to use an AED, they advise.

The basic difference between sudden cardiac arrest is when the heart stops due to a kind of electrical seizure. A heart attack, on the other hand, is caused usually by some kind of blockage in an artery when the heart does not get enough oxygen. Many who suffer heart attacks have time to get emergency treatment. That is not true with those who suffer cardiac arrest, which is so sudden that unless someone else is present to help, death is virtually certain. AEDs can also be used when people are suffering “heart attacks,” as well as sudden cardiac arrests.

About 360,000 people die of cardiac arrest each year, and 80 percent of them happen at home. Only about 8 percent of them survive. However, if CPR and/or AEDs are used, the survival rate is 70 percent.

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www.thenewsleaders.com

Published each Friday by Von Meyer Publishing Inc.

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

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.

March 20

5:55 p.m. Traffic hazard. Utah Road. A citizen notified police of a downed stop sign. The officer coordinated with city maintenance to have a portable one in place until a new one could be installed.

March 21

4:20 p.m. Agency assist. Bridge of Hope. An officer responded to another police department’s request for locating a driving complaint. The officer located the vehicle and assisted Sauk Rapids police with getting the driver out of the vehicle. The officer turned over found evidence of drug activity to Sauk Rapids police.

March 22

7:15 p.m. Traffic stop. Second Street S. An officer witnessed a vehicle speeding. The officer stopped the vehicle and the driver admitted to the officer they were aware of their speed. The officer issued a citation.

March 23

6:45 p.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue. An officer witnessed a vehicle traveling above the posted speed limit. The officer stopped the vehicle and the driver admitted to speeding. The officer issued a citation.

March 24

5 p.m. Unwanted person. First Street NE. Officers were dispatched to a call of an individual loitering on a property after being asked to leave. The officer detained the individual until he would identify himself. The individual, a juvenile, was escorted from the property and was cited for possession of an electronic smoking device.

March 25

6:30 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 1.

Officer conducted a routine license-plate check and found the license was canceled. The driver, matching the description, gave a different name to the officer. After investigating further, the officer found the driver had a felony warrant from Morrison County. The driver was arrested for the warrant and giving a false name to the officer.

March 26

1:50 a.m. Intoxicated person. Seventh Street N. Officers were dispatched to a call about an intoxicated man who could have weapons. Officers talked with everyone regarding the argument. Officers discussed the issue with the man and he stated he was fine and was not going to hurt himself or others.

March 27

1:25 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 1. An officer conducted a license-plate check. The owner of the vehicle had a revoked license. The officer stopped the vehicle and verified the owner was the driver. The driver was issued a citation for the infraction and a valid driver arrived to drive the vehicle.

March 28

8 p.m. ATV complaint. Seventh Street S. An officer was dispatched to a boy riding an all-terrain vehicle in a park. Officers met with the boy and his parent and they explained he was helping maintain bird houses behind his property. He was advised about riding an ATV on public property.

March 29

1:45 p.m. Motorist assist. Pinecone Road. An officer was dispatched to a motorist who had locked their keys inside the vehicle they were driving. The officer used an unlock kit to open the vehicle.

March 30

9 p.m. DWI. 17th Street S. A citizen called about a vehicle driving erratically and braking suddenly. Officers found the vehicle and the driver still in the vehicle. The driver showed signs of impairment. Officers were made aware of a warrant for the individual’s arrest. The

driver was arrested for DWI and the warrant and transported to Stearns County Jail.

March 31

2:20 p.m. Traffic stop. 36th Avenue N. An officer stopped a vehicle for a brake light. When questioned, the driver told the officer he had a canceled license. The officer discovered the license was canceled due to inimical public safety. The driver was placed under arrest for the license infraction.

April 1

6:30 p.m. Theft. CR 1. Officers were dispatched to a place of business where an employee of the business was caught concealing merchandise. Officers cited the individual for the theft and waited with the individual for their parent to arrive.

April 2

9:05 a.m. Traffic stop. Second Avenue N. An officer saw a vehicle displaying an expired registration tab on their vehicle. Conducting a check of the license plate returned the owner of the vehicle had a revoked license. The officer conducted a stop based on the expired tabs. The driver admitted they knew they had a revoked license and could not be driving. The driver could not produce proof of insurance either. The driver was cited for all three infractions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN
ORDINANCE 54
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 54.01 AND 54.02 OF ORDINANCE 54, TITLED “ORDINANCE 54 TRANSIENT MERCHANTS, PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS”

The City Council of St. Stephen, Minnesota hereby ordains as follows:

Section 54.01 of Ordinance 54 is amended to ADD the following term and definition at Subdivision 2 and RENUMBER all subsequent definitions in Section 54.01 in accordance with the addition:

Subd. 2. Non-Commercial Door-to-Door Fundraiser. A person who goes door-to-door for the primary purpose of raising money for an educational or charitable organization, including when such person engages in the sale of goods or services and an educational or charitable organization receives any and all proceeds from such sales. For the purpose of this ordinance, the term door-to-door fundraiser shall fall under the term solicitor.

Section 54.02 of Ordinance 54 is amended to ADD to following exception at b) and RENUMBER all subsequent exceptions in Section 54.02 in accordance with the addition:

b) Non-commercial door-to-door fundraisers. Nothing within this ordinance shall be interpreted to prohibit or restrict non-commercial door-to-door fundraisers. Persons engaging in non-commercial door-to-door fundraising shall not be required to register as a solicitor under Section 54.07.

This ordinance becomes effective from and after its passage and publication.

Passed by the City Council of St. Stephen, Minnesota this 6th day of February 2018.

Attested:

/s/ Jeff Blenkush
Mayor
/s/ Cris Drais
City Clerk

Dated: March 29, 2019

Publish: April 5, 2019



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Obituary

Dr. Brownie Williams
Sartell
Jan. 2, 1955-March 22, 2019

Dr. Brownie Williams, 64, died March 22 at home surrounded by his family. His funeral was held March 28 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell. The Rev. Timothy Baltes officiated and entombment was in Assumption Cemetery in St. Cloud.



Williams

Williams was born Jan. 2, 1955 in St. Cloud to Bernard E. “Barney” and June F. (Horgan) Williams. He grew up in St. Cloud and attended Cathedral High School. He stole Michelle Murphy’s heart junior year in high school and they subsequently went on to get married on Jan. 7, 1977 at St. Paul’s Catholic Church in St. Cloud. Williams was a member at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell. In 1981, he followed his dream and opened a 1,000-square-foot medical clinic in Sartell with only two rooms where he worked as a chiropractor. Given the ongoing growth, he remodeled the adjacent office and added 2,000 square feet. He combined medical and chiropractic in 1996 to form what is known as Williams Integracare Clinic. Williams’s ongoing perseverance and work ethic drove him to getting to the clinic by 6:10 a.m. almost every day. Everyone respected him for his vision and tenacity but deep inside everyone really loved him for who he was as a person. Throughout his hard work in everything in life, his family remained number one behind everything he did. Williams was an avid outdoors-

man and enjoyed hunting. When he wasn’t at home, he could be found in the woods! He taught his children and grandchildren to love the outdoors, to respect nature and to love nature.

He taught his children what unconditional love truly means. He instilled car rides (windshield time) should be spent talking to each other, often enlightening his children with his knowledge and advice. The Williamses were always welcoming and opened their home. Their children’s friends would make sure the Williamses were there to hang out, because of the joy and fun they added. He was adored by his five grandchildren who loved their Papa very much, especially for the extra treats he always managed to sneak them. He taught his family unconditional love and support; he was the rock of the family, and because of this, the strength he has instilled in them will never be lost, but rather a constant reminder of him. His genuine smile and booming, but always kind, voice will be profoundly missed by all.

Survivors include his wife of Sartell; children, Dr. David (Candice) of Edina, Danielle (Mason) Thelen of Minneapolis, Megan (Peter) Mulheran of Plymouth; grandchildren, Jada, Lydia, Maisie, Parker and Brody; brothers and sister, Thomas (Catherine) of Sartell, Barbara (Curt) Johnson of Sartell, Mark (Arlene) of St. Cloud, Daniel (Carol) of St. Cloud; sister-in-law, Toni Williams of Princeton and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Michael Williams and niece Julianne Marie Williams.

Memorials are preferred to Poor Clare Sisters and American Hemochromatosis Society.

Obituary, guestbook and video tribute available online: www.williamsdingmann.com.

Singer awakens to a million hits

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

One day, Sailor Jerri woke up to a million hits and realized with a shock that a song in honor of military troops she’d sung had gone viral on Facebook and YouTube.

Since that day in April 2017, another version of the same song continues on its viral journey, with multi-million hits online and downloaded by listeners in at least 22 countries – at last count.

Jerri, who hails originally from Milaca and goes by her stage name to protect her privacy, recorded the song in Sartell in the at-home recording studio of producer/songwriter Greg Michael Huberty.

Jerri’s impassioned tribute to military troops is an altered version of “Hallelujah,” a 1984 song written and recorded by the late Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen. Now considered widely as one of the greatest songs ever written, "Hallelujah" has been recorded by the likes of (most notably) Jeff Buckley, as well as K.D. Lang, Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan and more.

“Hallelujah” is a kind of world-weary secular hymn, a melancholy lament, a desperate prayer and a struggle between pain and beauty, between earthly desires and spiritual striving. In his song, Cohen focuses on an elusive, difficult romantic relationship.

Jerri’s own lyrics are quite different. They are both a trib-



contributed photo
Sailor Jerri performs a song.

ute and a sad lament to all the men and women who sacrificed so much in serving their country in the military. Her first verse goes like this:

“You packed your bags and shut the door.
You crossed the seas to fight a war.
You didn’t know just what would happen to ya.
Stepped in the dirt, boots on the ground.
And gunfire was the only sound.
And to yourself you whispered hallelujah . . .”

Online, the song is accompanied by a cascade of photos sent to Jerri by troops – photos that range from upbeat (military camaraderie) to tragic (wounded warriors).

How it started

One day in early April 2016, at about 10 a.m., when Jerri was at home with her two young children, she had a burst of inspiration and wrote her lyrics with the Leonard Cohen melody in mind. She was eager to video a do-it-herself recording – just her singing it, no accompaniment. She posted it online.

When she woke up one morning to learn the video had gone viral, she was so stunned she didn’t know quite what to think. She began to get thank-

you messages – one from an American soldier stationed in Germany who woke up one morning in the barracks to hear Jerri’s version of "Hallelujah" playing loudly in the barracks. Then she received a request from United Kingdom soldiers who asked her if they could play it too. Messages, thanks and praise poured forth.

Jerri and her friends decided she should make a better – more professional – version of the song. While on the way to Las Vegas to see country legend George Strait perform, Jerri’s boyfriend, Ryan, said to her, “You’ve got to call Greg.”

He meant Greg Michael Huberty of Sartell. Ryan, who served two tours of combat in Iraq, is a singer in a band called Copperhead Creek, and Huberty had written and recorded songs the band members really liked a lot.

Back home, they visited Huberty, who agreed the song must be recorded with an acoustic guitar as background and a fiddle weaving in and out of the verses. They put the polished song online May 10, 2017, with the photos, and what was merely viral a month before went super-viral. Millions, millions of hits. So far, more than 120 million.

“Jerri’s song has perfect lyrics and the right voice/personality to go along,” said producer Huberty. “It was really cool to see how fast her fan base was growing, how impactful the song is and how fast the song kept spreading globally through social media. It is continually touching lives.”

Background

Writing and singing “Hallelujah Veterans’ Version,” as it’s called, came naturally for Sailor Jerri (performing name) because she has long worked with veterans’ support groups.

She herself is a veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy from 2002-2006 stateside as an aviation mechanic. She also recently recorded an original music video (“I’m Going Anyway”) with her former Navy compatriots and some new ones at her old airplane hangar on the U.S. Naval base in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

“I always loved to sing,” she said, “but I didn’t learn to play guitar until 2016.”

Singer • page 6

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Sartell falls short in final vote for Hockeyville rink upgrades

Sartell hockey boosters fell short in a national contest to win \$150,000 in rink upgrades for Bernick's Arena.

When online voting ended March 31 in the national Kraft Hockeyville USA contest, Calumet Colosseum in Calumet, Michigan, captured the prize.

Sartell was one of four finalists in the annual competition sponsored by Kraft Foods, the National Hockey League and the NHL Players' Association in which communities compete to demonstrate their commitment to the sport of ice hockey.

Bernick's Arena and youth hockey will receive \$10,000 toward rink upgrades and \$10,000 worth of new hockey equipment.

Calumet Colosseum opened in 1913 and is the oldest in-use indoor ice arena in the world.

6th-grader represents Sartell again at state Geography Bee

Sartell Middle School sixth-grader Yazaan Anjum once again represented Sartell at the State Geography Bee on March 29 at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus. He did not move



Anjum

on to the national event.

Yazaan qualified for his second state competition after placing first at the Jan. 7 Sartell Middle School Geography Bee moderated by global studies teacher Jenny Richason and with Gopi Ramananthan, a Sartell alumni and former World Geography Bee champion, serving as scorekeeper.

Yazaan won the school Geography Bees in fourth, fifth and sixth grades. He qualified for state in fifth and sixth grade.

At the state meet, 100 students start the first round and 90 are eliminated before the final round.

Twenty-five middle school students in grades five through eight participated in one of two preliminary GeoBees to earn one of 10 spots for the January competition. Yazaan placed first at this competition and advanced to state.

Flood-mitigation study to be done

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The city of Sartell will pitch in for the cost of a flood-mitigation feasibility study for the west side of the Mississippi River.

The council authorized the cost at its March 11 meeting.

There is a particularly low level of land along Riverside Avenue, such as by the DeZurik manufacturing plant. That area – and other parts of the city – experienced serious flooding in spring of 1965 when record levels of piled-up snow caused the river to rise drastically and inundate the land.

April Ryan, a city engineer with Short Elliott Hendrickson, said Stearns County plans to reconstruct CR 1 from Sartell Street to 12th Street N., but first it wants to do a study of that low-lying land to determine if there are any possible ways to add engineering methods to the reconstruction project to prevent future flooding.

DeZurik has offered to pay \$10,000 toward the \$38,700 cost of the flood mitigation study. Stearns County and Sartell will split the cost of the rest, close to \$10,000 each.

The results of the flood study will be shared with the council this August.

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Singer

from page 4

At about that time, she became aware of a patient at the long-term care center at the St. Cloud VA Hospital. The patient, she said, was so lonely he actually put an ad in a newspaper for someone to come visit him. Jerri was so shaken, so moved by that veteran's plight, she became determined to learn guitar so she could visit the VA and other veterans' venues to entertain them.

Jerri is a strong believer in musical therapy – the way that music can help people cope with emotional problems, messy memories and deep sorrows. Time and again, she has seen how music connects with veterans and their loved ones, which, she believes, accounts for the viral popularity of "Hallelujah."

Jerri's version of "Hallelujah" caused such a sensation she almost immediately became an in-demand performer at places throughout the nation – especially in patriotic Texas where she has performed many times. As a performer, Jerri is booked solid all the way into next year.

"It's funny, but it's as if Minnesota doesn't know I exist," she told the Newsleader during an interview. "But not in the South. I'm booked all through the South. I've met George Strait. He's a great guy. I meet so many artists, so many good people. And they are all so nice and complimentary to me. Ninety percent of my audiences are military people."

With Huberty's help, including as a co-writer, she later re-



contributed photo

Sailor Jerri records a tribute-to-troops song in a airplane hangar where she used to stationed while in the U.S. Navy -- at Virginia Beach, Va.

corded a CD in the Sartell studio. Titled "No Rules in Sight" and released last April, the CD shot up the charts like a rocket, to the No. 14 spot on the iTunes country chart.

Jerri and Huberty are now working on a second CD, which is expected to be released next May. Huberty, originally from Eden Valley, moved to Sartell two years ago. His recording studio in his home doesn't have an official name, and he likes to keep it on the private side, just using the studio for aspiring singers/talent he learns of through word of mouth and for clients/singers who contact him via his website (www.gregmichaellhuberty.com). The kinds of music Huberty produces and records include country, pop, Christian, rock, folk, R&B/hip-op, as well as voice-over and other audio projects.

Huberty graduated from St. Cloud State University with degrees in marketing and advertis-

ing, then went to an audio school in Minneapolis to learn recording techniques. Besides being a songwriter, Huberty plays guitar, piano and, more recently, banjo.

It was a thrill, he said, to see Jerri's "Hallelujah" video go so viral.

The last verse of the song goes like this:

"You fought the fight 'til it was done.

You have the strength to carry on.

You thought it'd be much better back home, did ya?

You try each day, keep pushing through.

But the battle lies inside of you.

It's a cold and it's a broken hallelujah.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah . . . "

To hear the song or other songs by Sailor Jerri, go to her website at www.sailorjerrimusic.com.

Imagination Library funded by dinners

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Gourmet theme dinners will soon be served in Sartell, St. Joseph and St. Cloud to raise money for Imagination Library in Central Minnesota.

The dinners cooked and served at the homes of volunteers will take place in St. Cloud April 6 (10 dinners) in Sartell April 13 (10 dinners) and in St. Joseph (five dinners), also April 13. An estimated 200 diners, total, will enjoy the meals. For tickets, call Lori Eich of United Way at 320-229-3501.

The Imagination Library fundraiser will launch the 10th year of the program in Central Minnesota. Organizers hope to raise \$55,000, and all of that money will be used to send a free book every month to more than 7,000 children, ages birth through 5, in Central Minnesota.

Imagination Library is a free book program started in 1995 by famed singer-songwriter Dolly Parton. It now serves 1,412,715 children in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Australia. A total of nearly 117 million books have been sent to children in the 23 years since the program began.

Children's dreams for the future are often inspired by books, Dolly Parton believes.

"When I was growing up in the hills of Tennessee, I knew my dreams would come true," Parton wrote on the Imagination Library website. "I know there are children in your community with their own dreams. They dream of becoming a doctor or an inventor or a minister. Who knows, maybe there is a little girl whose dream is to be a writer and singer. The seeds of these dreams are often found in books, and the seeds you

help plant in your community can grow across the world."

The dinner fundraisers have been done in previous years in the three local cities, Eich noted. Some of the dinner themes this year are Escape to Neverland, Alice in Wonderland and Cuisine Royale (playing-cards theme).

Participants in the dining program will first go to an anchor home in the city for which they are signed up. There, appetizers will be served and each diner will find out which home in that city they will go to for a theme dinner. The dinners are prepared by talented resident cooks, restaurant cooks or trained chefs. After dinner, guests will return to the anchor homes for dessert.

Premier Real Estate Services is the main sponsor this year, and Ashley Green of Green Thumb Etc. in St. Cloud, provided three refurbished chair artworks to be auctioned off. Also up for auction is the child's book "Coat of Many Colors," autographed by its author, Dolly Parton.

People who do not participate in the fundraiser can still contribute to Imagination Library, central Minnesota chapter, by going to unitedway-helps.org

Find out more about Imagination Library at imagination-library.com.



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Good Friday Service | April 19, 2:30 p.m.

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Night Watches continue through the night.

Liturgy of Baptism and Eucharist Sunday, April 21, 6 a.m.

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School

from front page

- Activities
- Reduction in overall budget

-Activities fee increases

-Facility Use Fee increases

Savings: \$15,000

Additional revenue:

\$150,000

Custodial

-No increase in staffing at new high school/no use of current building

-ProFields reduction

Savings: \$15,000

Teacher Retirements

-Five teachers are retiring before the 2019-2020 school year

Savings: \$270,000

Certified positions

Elementary 2.0 FTE

-Academic Extensions (1.0)

-Classroom (Oak Ridge Elementary 1.0)

Middle School 1.33 FTE

-Instructional Technology (.33)

-Classroom (1.0)

High School - 2.0 FTE

-Instructional Technology (1.0)

-Classroom (1.0)

District wide .58 FTE

-Adaptive physical education

-English Learner

Savings: \$350,000

Non-certified support staff

-Elementary media aide (2.0)

-Elementary playground supervision (16 hours/day)

-Reduction of paraprofessionals (4.0)

-SHS greeter (1.0)

-SHS cafeteria supervision (4 hours/day)

Savings: \$222,500

Technology

-Increase nonrefundable deposit

-Instructional Technology reductions

Savings \$6,000

Curriculum and non-personnel

-Reduction of sub costs related to meetings

-Reduction of building non-personnel budgets

Savings: \$60,000

District needs on hold

-No student/staff device refresh

-No Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program

-No Fitness Center supervision

-No student-run business or internship/apprenticeship experiences

-No Performing Arts Center/auditorium manager

-Some AP/College in the Schools classes will not be offered (art, comparative government, computer science, chemistry, principles of engineering)

Savings \$400,000

Long-term reduction/revenue possibilities

-Estimated 10 percent class size increase

-Implementing up to a two-mile walk zone

-Leasing District Service Center

-Reduce middle school activities and athletics

Christmas trees had to be burned

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

This winter, the Christmas trees had to be burned at the Sartell compost site.

At the March 11 Sartell City Council meeting, Public Works Director John Kothenbeutel explained.

For the past 10 or so years, a crew from Benson would bring a giant grinder to the Sartell site and chip up the trees brought by residents to the site after Christmas. The ground chips would fill from 10 to 15 semi

trucks, then be driven to Benson to be used in a power plant there. However, that plant has been closed. Kothenbeutel said it would have been prohibitively expensive for the city to acquire a giant grinder to do the chipping-shredding work. Burning was the solution. Sauk Rapids, he noted, used the same method for the Christmas trees brought to its compost site.

Kothenbeutel said he and his staff were very mindful of the weather conditions when they did the burnings.



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Pickleball grows in popularity as fun exercise

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

On so many nights, when Ken Ramler of Sartell prepares to go to sleep, he thinks of playing pickleball first thing in the morning and the thought always energizes him with happiness.

At age 69, he's played pickleball for five years and loves the game because, as he put it, it's not only good exercise but a fun social time.

Ramler plays at the Sartell Community Center three days a week. He also plays now and then at Whitney Senior Center in St. Cloud, which is where he first became aware of the game. He's played pickleball on courts as far away as Texas and Hawaii.

About five years ago, Ramler and a couple friends visited Whitney Center and quickly noticed how welcoming the pickleball players were to them.

"We tried the game, and we thought, yes, we can do this," Ramler recalled. From those early games, Ramler became "hooked" on it.

Ramler is one of about 100 players who enjoys the game on the six courts in the Sartell Community Center. They are people from all over the greater St. Cloud area, and beyond. Each of the three gymnasiums there has enough space for two pickleball courts – six in all. And that means on most mornings, a total of 24 people are playing at the same time, and more sit and wait for their turns to play.

Sartell also has six pickleball courts in Val Smith Park created from the previous tennis courts, with another one planned for the refurbished Watab Park.

What is it?

Some people still do not know what pickleball is or why a game has a name with "pickle" in it.

Pickleball is a game played with a paddle racket and a waffle-type ball, and it combines elements of badminton, tennis and table tennis. It is not as demanding or exhausting as tennis. Each game involves four players, two on each side of the net. The first team to make 11 points wins, as long as they lead at that point by at least two points.

Pickleball was first played in 1965 on Bainbridge Island in Puget Sound near Seattle. It was "invented" at the home of former Washington State Rep. Joel Pritchard who was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and later became lieutenant governor for Washington. One day, Pritchard and two friends returned home from golfing to discover their families rather bored that day. They suggested they all play badminton, but they could not find the shuttlecock needed to play it, so they decided to make do with a waffle ball. They lowered the volleyball net and made plywood paddles on the spur of the moment from scraps of wood in an outdoor shed.

According to Pritchard's wife, the game was named after a "pickle boat," which is the last boat to return from sea with its daily catch of seafood. The men who rowed the pickle boat were chosen from the leftovers of other boats. For some reason, Pritchard's wife said the improvisatory nature of the game reminded her of the last-minute pickle boats and thus the name stuck to the game.

Why so popular?

Ramler said pickleball is popular because people are discovering the game does not take tremendous skill to play – in other words anyone of any age can enjoy the game for fun exercise. Furthermore, although the action can be strenuous and competitive, a relaxed ca-

maraderie among players is the mood of every game, not who wins or who loses.

"Oh, not that I don't like winning," Ramler said. "Sometimes when a game is very close, we can be fighting tooth and claw on that court to win, and it gets so exciting. And even when we lose a game like that, we feel good because of the excitement."

Many senior citizens, including lots of women, love the game.

"Just yesterday, I played a game where there was a guy playing who was 84 or 85," Ramler said. "He was a bit slower, sure, but he could still play quite a game."

An average game lasts about 15 minutes. And after each game, the players at Sartell Community Center love to "mix it up" a bit, with players going to other courts there to choose different teammates and compete with other players.

Ramler and his wife, Nancy, go to Texas for a couple of weeks in the winter. He likes to play pickleball there. Some of the players limp a bit with bad knees, some are overweight and one had a knee replacement about a year ago. Their ailments didn't stop them; they gathered at the pickleball courts and had a lot of fun, Ramler noted.

Ramler has been a professional woodcarver for many years and made a good living from it, making art objects such as birds, relief carvings, little whimsical houses and so forth. He also teaches wood-carving and – not surprisingly – pickleball classes.

At the Center

On Monday morning, Dec. 10, the six courts at the Sartell Community Center were a flurry of pickleball players slamming the ball back and forth over the nets. Players, while getting quite a vigorous work-



photo by Dennis Dalman

Camaraderie among pickleball players is personified during their ritual touching of the rackets, a form of "shaking hands." From left to right are Karen Nyberg of St. Cloud, Noel Blais of Sartell, Sharon Madson of St. Cloud and Jerome Heiser of Watertown, S.D. They were among the many pickleball players Dec. 10 at the Sartell Community Center.

out, still looked relaxed with lots of comments and wisecracks flying across the net, along with the pickleball.

Several of the players, on break, took time to talk with the Newsleader.

One of them, Jerome Heiser, hails from Watertown, S.D.

"I'm here babysitting my grandkids," he said. "Their parents are Mike and Lindsey Dingman. Lindsey's my daughter. Oh yes, I love playing pickleball. I was down in Arizona when I played it the first time. When I got back to Watertown, I couldn't wait to play it again, and I've been playing ever since."

On the courts that day were players from Sartell, of course, but also people from St. Joseph, Waite Park, Sauk Rapids and even a few out-of-staters, like Heiser, and someone visiting from Florida.

Ralph Schroder of St. Joseph said he loves the game because it makes for a social mixing, playing with lots of other peo-

ple. Like many others, Schroder learned the game while snowbirding down in Texas.

"It's such a fun game," he said. "I play usually about three times a week."

Cindy Wyatt of Sartell has been a pickleball fan for five years after learning it in Sun City, Ariz., her first year as a snowbird.

"The people who play pickleball are just great people," she said, "And the game is a fun way to exercise."

The pickleball courts at the Sartell Community Center are usually open and ready for play almost every day of the week until about 11 a.m. People who want to play or want to learn should just show up. Anyone with a yen to learn it can observe the game being played and then find out more about learning how to play it. Good days to show up are Mondays and Wednesday mornings.

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Gold Team (from row, left to right) Kaitlynn Cusipag, Ellie Oehrlein, Kylie Weber and Elizabeth Jarnot; and (back row) Coach Quinn Anderson, Cora Stark, Ava Radeke, Latiana Morin, Emma Prow-Dockendorf, Emma Good and Coach Alexis Flaherty.



Blue Team (left to right) Coach Quinn Anderson, Annabelle Condon, Indiah Thompson, Natalie Gill, Kendra Deragisch, Ella Kirchner, Madeline Francois, Megann Jobin, Lainey Stavish, Allie Pluimer and Coach Alexis Flaherty.



Silver Team (left to right) Coach Quinn Anderson, Coach Alex Bade, Hailey Westrup, Makenna Hauck, Violet Steil, Shayla Scepaniak, Kaelin Coffin, Lilly Houghton, Ally Tromburg, Norah Mentzer, Jacelynn Johnston, Coach Alexis Flaherty and Coach Shelby Hall.



White Team (front row, left to right) Emma Kantor, Cami Weber, Brooklyn Gallant, Taylor Drexler-Gainsforth and Evy Larkin; (back row) Coach Quinn Anderson, Gabby Hagburg, Kiersten Meester, Juliana Thran, Tobi Adetunji, Caitlyn Burns and Coach Shelby Hall.

Sapphire gymnasts fare well at state championship meet

Sartell Sapphire Gymnastics sent four teams to the Midwest Amateur Gymnastics Association State Championships. White team qualified for Division 8 state meet in New Prague on March 2 and placed seventh. Sapphire Gold qualified for the Division 6

in St. Michael March 9 and placed third. Sapphire Blue qualified for Division 5 state meet in St. Michael on March 9 and placed eighth. Sapphire Silver team qualified for the Division 4 state meet in St. Michael on March 10 and placed Second. Sartell Sapphire Gym-

nastics is a nonprofit organization that develops skills for gymnasts ranging in age from 2-14. The year-round program is based on tryout and availability. Tryouts for the 2019-2020 season will be from 4-6 p.m. May 13 or 14 at Bernick’s Arena.

People

Sartell Junior Olympic Volleyball team 14U Impact Blue ended the season with a 19-5-3 record. The team is coached by Katelyn Butkowski.

Five Sartell students have been named to the fall semester dean’s list at the College of St. Benedict. The students are **Madison Flaherty**, daughter of Stacie and Robert Flaherty; **Breanna Hess**, daughter of Kim and Bob Hess; **Lindsey Hoeschen**, daughter of Sondra and Steve Hoeschen; **Samantha Lundgren**, daughter of Becky and Dan Lundgren; and **Mol-**

ly Mahowald, daughter of Jennifer and David Mahowald. To be included on the dean’s list, students must have a grade-point average of at least 3.80.

Amanda Groethe, Stearns Electric Association director of communication and marketing, was recently honored with the 2019 American Ad-



Groethe

vertising Federation of Central Minnesota’s Emerging Leader Award, an honor that celebrates an outstanding member of the local advertising community. Emerging Leaders are those who, though young in their careers, have already proven themselves to be making an impact in their company and for their clients. They have begun to further industry standards, creative excellence, and responsibility in areas of social concern. Groethe volunteers for the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Sauk Rapids - Rice Education

Foundation Board and donating her design and communication skills to a variety of local non-profit organizations. **Brenda Eisenschenk**, owner of i n t e l - C O N - N E C T Inc., has been selected as the 2019 St. Cloud Area Woman in Business Champion. The award is presented by the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce.



Eisenschenk

She was selected as the 2019 Women in Business Champion because she has made a point of supporting women and girls. Eisenschenk started intel-CONNECT in August 2007 to provide telecommunications consulting for businesses on phone, internet and cable TV services. Eisenschenk volunteers for a number of organizations, including the Sartell Chamber, the St. Cloud Area Chamber, her church, Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin Lakes and Pines; Habitat for Humanity and Sertoma.

News Tips?

Call the Newsleader at 363-7741

Opinion

Our View

Support laws to raise tobacco sales age, ban e-cigarettes

There’s smoke in the air at the state Capitol this spring as the Legislature grinds toward a May 20 adjournment.

Two measures that would protect our clean indoor air and health are up for debate. The Legislature should pass and Governor Walz should sign these actions.

The House overwhelming passed HF349 that expands the definition of smoking to ensure Minnesota’s smoke-free indoor-air law restricts the use of e-cigarettes in bars, restaurants and other places where smoking is prohibited. Under current law, the use of electronic delivery devices is prohibited at daycare premises, at health care facilities and clinics, in state and local government buildings, in buildings owned by a public college or university and in certain facilities licensed by the Department of Human Services or the Minnesota Department of Health.

The proposed expansion means carrying or using an activated electronic delivery is prohibited in the same locations as smoking under the Clean Indoor Air Act: in public places, at a public meeting, in a place of employment or in public transportation.

Reps. Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring) and Tim O’Driscoll (R-Sartell) voted in favor of the bill. A Senate version is awaiting committee action.

A second House bill (HF331) to raise the age to buy tobacco to 21 is moving through House committees. While the Legislature debates, cities and counties across Minnesota are taking independent action to raise the age limit to 21. This week, Olmsted County and Rochester voted to raise their tobacco sales age to 21, bringing the state’s total of cities and counties that have acted to 31. No Central Minnesota cities or counties have joined the effort.

Current state law requires a person to be age 18 or older to purchase tobacco, tobacco products, electronic delivery devices and nicotine and lobelia delivery products. This bill raises the age for persons to purchase these items to 21 or older.

The bill has been referred to the Health and Human Services Finance Division. In the Senate, the Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee passed the companion bill (SF463) and referred it to the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee.

The dangers of e-cigarettes and youth smoking are backed up by research:

Nearly 95 percent of addicted adult smokers started before age 21.

In a health advisory, the Minnesota Department of Health called youth nicotine addiction a “major health concern” because the nicotine in e-cigarettes can prime youth for future addiction.

FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb has stated that “e-cigarette use among youth has hit epidemic proportions.”

Almost 40 percent of high-school students have tried e-cigarettes, which come in kid-friendly flavors like gummy bear and cotton candy.

Nearly one in five high-school students reporting using e-cigarettes in the past month according to 1 2017 survey – a nearly 50 percent surge in high-school use from 13 percent in 2014.

Some 88 percent of high-school and middle-school students reported they have seen advertisements promoting e-cigarettes.

The FDA calls e-cigarette use by young people an “epidemic.” E-cigarette use has outpaced the search for treating nicotine dependence and there are no specific treatment guidelines for teens. The FDA is so concerned it is looking for ways to help kids quit. Experts say insurance-covered outpatient care and counseling doesn’t exist.

Young smokers and teens who use e-cigarettes could reverse years of healthful, anti-smoking behavior. Voters should insist Minnesota’s legislators act to pass these bills.

Urban explorers risk injury, arrest for social media fame

Two popular hobbies – one pursued in the real, physical world and one practiced in the virtual, digital world – converged in Watab Township last week.

For years, adventurers have found excitement as urban explorers – roaming through abandoned buildings, caves and tunnels.

Media attention and technology popularized and glamorized the activity fueling increased interest. Recent television shows such as Discovery Channel’s “Urban Explorers,” MTV’s “Fear” and “Ghost Hunters” dramatically documented seemingly forbidden missions.

The dangerous pastime has taken a modern twist with increased use of social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. And with high-quality, low-cost digital gadgets such as GoPros, attention-seeking explorers easily share their antics.

An urban exploring adventure did not end well for five Benton County teenagers. On March 23, they were arrested in Bend in the River Park.

Sheriff Troy Heck shares this account: At about 6:45 p.m., a witness reported several teenagers entering a locked building after smashing a window. Benton County deputies and police officers from Rice and Royalton arrived. They found three 17-year-old boys, a 16-year-old girl and a 15-year-old girl inside the

Mike Knaak
Editor



building.

Deputies learned the five arrived at the park together to take photos.

One of the boys decided it would be a good idea to break a window and all five entered the building.

One of the crew told deputies they wanted to take photographs of themselves inside the building.

Deputies released the crew to their parents, but they were not, as we say these days, totally exonerated. The sheriff’s office forwarded details of the incident to the county attorney seeking burglary and trespassing charges on all five.

“This incident appears to be another in an ongoing trend among area teens that involves trespassing into empty or abandoned buildings to document their presence inside the building and then share their acts on social media,” Heck wrote in a press release on the incident. “While these acts of trespass and burglary are illegal, they can also be quite dangerous as these unoccupied buildings may house unknown hazards.”

The thrill of exploring abandoned or unoccupied space and sharing details of the adventure on social media seems to be fun that’s too good to pass up.

But in addition to creating a criminal record, explorers could end up in the emergency room or worse after stumbling down decaying stairs, falling through a deteriorated floor or breathing toxic air.

Many structures feature hazards such as unstable structures, unsafe floors, asbestos, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, exposed electrical wires and entrapment hazards.

Asbestos is a long-term health risk for urban explorers, along with breathing in other contaminants such as dried bird feces.

A Google search quickly finds urban explorers freely share advice online on how to avoid the hazards and carry on more safely. But a quick Google search also turns up stories of explorers falling to their deaths or finding themselves trapped in an unmarked cavity.

Instead of seeking tips and tricks for safe urban exploring, a wiser move would be to seek adventure in a park or along a trail. Those locales present plenty of places for dramatic photos, the air is much better and there usually aren’t deputies waiting to arrest you at the end of the trail.

College scam highlights larger problems

Connor Kockler
Guest Writer



It was a shock to many Americans when federal prosecutors in Massachusetts announced charges against 50 people for one of the biggest college admissions scams in American history. As a college student myself, it was disappointing to see a system that advertises itself as being based on merit and effort was being blatantly undermined. Unfortunately, with how important college is becoming to succeeding in careers and society, the problems with college admissions need to be fixed in order to restore confidence in the system among parents, students and society.

The scam in question had been running for about eight years and allegedly involved a man named William Singer running a “college counseling” business that actually used two fraudulent methods to get the children of wealthy clients into top universities. First, Singer would tell parents to get their children classified as needing special accommodations for taking college exams such as the ACT and SAT. The students would then be able to choose to go to a testing center under Singer’s “control” where someone paid by Singer would be able to fix the test to give the student a good score.

Secondly, the scheme allegedly paid multiple coaches at universities to classify the students of Singer’s clients as athletic recruits so they would then be accepted by the university, despite having few to no actual athletic credentials. These students would then not even play the sport they were accepted for even once they were at university.

While the people involved in this scandal are facing jail time and other penalties, it has bad implications for the college process across the country. This scam is so disturbing considering the high stakes and pressure that is on students and parents now to get their kids into a good university from an early age. Well-known universities have reputations, credentials and resources that can jumpstart a young person’s career, especially if they are a first-generation college student.

The schools involved in this scandal also represent some of the biggest names you might have heard in education – Georgetown, Stanford, Yale; these are some of the most prestigious and well known universities in the country and perhaps the world as well. They receive huge numbers of applications each year, and have very low admissions rates. For many students, it’s a dream to be able to receive admission to these schools.

With so much on the line, it’s important this scam and other factors involving college admissions are addressed. This should be done to ensure a fair and merit-based system for young people around Minnesota and the United States hoping to get a good hearing when they apply to universities that may shape the course of

the rest of their lives.

I am glad universities are checking to see whether this fraud affected them and taking steps to prevent such actions again, but there are also other problems that exist within the college admissions system. The U.S. attorney mentioned when announcing the charges that this isn’t buying a building to ensure admission for your student. But making large donations of this type is possible for some families.

Outside of paying for buildings, wealthier families can afford expensive tutors, fancy private schools and private counselors to give their kids an edge in getting to the Ivy League or any other school. Legacy admissions policies also make it easier for families that already have made it into America’s elite schools to get their students in, making it even harder for qualified but otherwise less connected students to get admitted.

If we as a country are committed to creating a society where anyone can get ahead if they work hard enough, we should do more to ensure young students, especially those with less connections or resources, are able to attend top universities and achieve their full potential. We as Americans should pay attention to the higher education system in this country and advocate every student get a fair shake for admission. They might just be the next person to change the world.

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

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

Saturday, April 6
Craft Sale, 10 a.m.-3p.m., Bernick’s Arena, 1109 First St. S., Sartell.
Sartell Winter Market, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell,
Kids Used Clothing sale, sponsored by St. Cloud Area Mothers of Multiples, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Discovery Community School, 700 Seventh St. S., Waite Park.

Sunday, April 7
Faith and Prevention of Violence from a Muslim and Jewish Perspective, 1-4:30 p.m., Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4310 CR 137, St Cloud. bethlehemlutheran.org/domorethanpray.

Monday, April 8
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., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.
Sartell-St. Stephen school board special meeting, 6:30 p.m., District Office, 212 Third Ave. N., Sartell.

Tuesday, April 9
Sartell Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., Waters Church, 1227 Pinecone Road. 320-258.6061. info@sartell-chamber.com.

Central Minnesota Civil War Rountable, 3 p.m. Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave., S., St. Cloud. “The Minnesota 3rd” presented by Joe Fitzharris.

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

Le Sauk Township Meeting, 7 p.m., Town Hall, 220 Fourth Ave. S., Sartell.

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

National Alliance on Mental Health, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. The group helps parents raising a

child with mental illness learn coping skills and develop problem-solving skills. 320-654-1259.

Brockway Township Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall, 43710 85th Ave. N., Rice.

Wednesday, April 10
History of Kraemer Lake-Wildwood County Park, presented by Ben Carlson, 9 a.m., Stearns History Museum Breakfast Club, 235 33rd Ave., S., St. Cloud.

Thursday, April 11
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Speaker is Frank Rezac, DNR game warden.

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

Friday, April 12
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Saturday, April 13
Funfest Fundraiser, sponsored by the student council and National Honor Society, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell High School. Games for children with proceeds to support Special

Olympics and Unified Sports.
Central Minnesota Chapter of the Federation of the Blind of Minnesota, 12:30 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

Monday, April 15
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

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

Sartell-St. Stephen school board, 6:30 p.m., St. Stephen City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave. SE., St. Stephen.

Tuesday, April 16
Mobile office hours, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Sartell City Hall. A caseworker from Rep. Tom Emmer’s office will be available to handle issues with federal government services.

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, April 17
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, April 18
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Topic: Small Space Gardening with Katie Winslow, University of Minnesota extension educator.

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, April 19
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

Saturday, April 20
Community meal, 11:30 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S. Free.

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2019 Sabres Varsity Spring Sports

Baseball

4/5/19	5 p.m.	Little Falls	Away
4/11/19	4:30 p.m.	Willmar	Home
4/12/19	4:30 p.m.	Monticello	Away
4/16/19	5 p.m.	Rocori	Away
4/18/19	4:30 p.m.	Alexandria	Home
4/23/19	5 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Home
4/25/19	5 p.m.	Alexandria	Away
4/26/19	5 p.m.	Becker	Home
4/30/19	4 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
5/3/19	5 p.m.	Zimmerman	Home
5/7/19	5 p.m.	Big Lake	Home
5/9/18	5 p.m.	Rocori	Home
5/10/19	5 p.m.	Apollo	Home
5/14/19	4 p.m.	Tech	Home
5/16/19	5 p.m.	Willmar	Away
5/18/19	11:30 a.m.	Cambridge-Isanti	Home
5/21/19	5 p.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Away
5/23/19	7 p.m.	Apollo	Away

Softball

4/11/19	5 p.m.	Willmar	Away
4/12/19	4:30 p.m.	Monticello	Away
4/16/19	5 p.m.	Rocori	Home
4/18/19	5 p.m.	Bemidji	Home
4/23/19	4 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Home
4/26/19	1:30 p.m.	Detroit Lake	Away
4/30/19	4 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
5/2/19	5 p.m.	Alexandria	Away
5/3/19	5 p.m.	Rocori	Away
5/9/19	4 p.m.	Apollo	Home
5/10/19	4 p.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Home
5/14/19	4 p.m.	Tech	Away
5/16/19	5 p.m.	Willmar	Home
5/17/19	5 p.m.	Little Falls	Home

Boys Tennis

4/2/19	4:30 p.m.	Becker	Home
4/9/19	4:30 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
4/11/19	2:30 p.m.	Alexandria, Moorhead	Away
4/16/19	4:30 p.m.	Apollo/Sauk Rapids-Rice	Home
4/18/19	4:30 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Home
4/23/19	4:30 p.m.	Willmar	Away
4/25/19	4:30 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Home
4/27/19	8 a.m.	Buffalo Invitational	Away
4/30/19	4:30 p.m.	Foley	Home
5/2/19	4:30 p.m.	Brainerd	Home
5/3/19	4:30 p.m.	Alexandria	Home
5/7/19	4:30 p.m.	Apollo/SRR	Away
5/9/19	4:30 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Away
5/10/19	4:30 p.m.	Willmar	Home
5/14/19	4:30 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Away

Boys Lacrosse

4/16/19	6 p.m.	Moorhead	Home
4/22/19	7 p.m.	St. Michael-Albertville	Away
4/25/19	6 p.m.	Big Lake	Home
4/29/19	6 p.m.	Monticello	Away
5/2/19	6 p.m.	Chisago Lakes	Home
5/6/19	7 p.m.	Buffalo	Away
5/7/19	6 p.m.	Rogers	Home
5/9/19	5 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
5/14/19	6 p.m.	Becker	Home
5/16/19	6:30 p.m.	Tech	Away
5/20/19	6 p.m.	Rocori	Home



Girls Lacrosse with Sauk Rapids-Rice

4/16/19	6 p.m.	Moorhead	SR-R High School
4/22/19	6 p.m.	St. Michael-Albertville	SR-R High School
4/27/19	1 p.m	Grand Rapids	SR-R High School
4/29/19	6 p.m.	Monticello	SR-R High School
4/30/19	6 p.m.	Rocori	SR-R High School
5/2/19	5 p.m.	Chisago Lakes	Away
5/6/19	6 p.m.	Buffalo	SR-R High School
5/7/19	5 p.m.	Rogers	Away
5/9/19	6 p.m.	Brainerd	SR-R High School
5/14/19	5 p.m.	Becker	Away
5/16/19	6 p.m.	St. Cloud Area	SR-R High School
5/20/19	5 p.m.	Rocori	Away

Boys Golf

4/9/19	3:30 p.m.	Meet at Rich-Spring Golf Course	Away
4/15/19	3:30 p.m.	Brainerd - Legacy Golf Course	Away
4/16/19	3:30 p.m.	Wapicada Golf Course	Away
4/23/19	3:30 p.m.	Territory Golf Club	Away
4/26/19	Noon	Hutchinson Invitational Crow River Golf Club	Away
4/30/19	3:30 p.m.	Willmar -Eagle Creek Golf Course	Away
5/2/19	Noon	Hutchinson Invitational Oakdale Golf Course	Away
5/3/19	2 p.m.	Presection Pequot Lakes The Preserve Golf Course	Away
5/6/19	Noon	Annadale Invitational	Away
5/6/19	4 p.m.	Blackberry Ridge	Home
5/13/19	4 p.m.	Fergus Falls Pebble Lake Golf Course	Away
5/20/19	4 p.m.	Alexandria Golf Club	Away
5/21/19	8:30 a.m.	Brainerd - Legacy Golf Course	Away
5/23/19	9 a.m.	Brainerd - The Preserves Golf Course Grand View Lodge	Away

Boys and Girls Track

3/22/19	4:30 p.m.	St. John's Invitational	Away
4/6/19	9 a.m.	Conference Tournament at St. John's University	Away
4/12/19	4 p.m.	Invitational at Sartell Middle School	Home
4/18/19	4 p.m.	Quad at Sartell Middle School	Home
4/25/19	4 p.m.	True Team at Cambridge-Isanti	Away
4/26/19	4:30 p.m.	Invitational at Hamline University	Away
4/30/19	3:40 p.m.	Invitational at Buffalo	Away
4/30/19	4:30 p.m.	Scrimmage	Home
5/7/19	3 p.m.	True Team at St. Michael -Albertville	Away
5/14/19	4 p.m.	Alexandria	Away
5/21/19	3 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
5/29/19	3 p.m.	Section at Fergus Falls	Away
6/1/19	9:30 a.m.	Section final at Willmar	Away

Girls Golf

4/15/19	3:30 p.m.	Rich-Spring Golf Course	Away
4/16/19	3:30 p.m.	Territory Golf Club	Away
4/25/19	3:30 p.m.	Willmar-Eagle Creek Golf Course	Away
4/30/19	3:30 p.m.	Brainerd Maddens Resort	Away
5/6/19	4 p.m.	Alexandria Golf Club	Away
5/13/19	4 p.m.	Blackberry Ridge Golf Course	Home
5/15/19	9 a.m.	Brainerd Maddens Resort	Away
5/16/19	4 p.m.	Fergus Falls Pebble Lake Golf Course	Away
5/21/19	4 p.m.	St. Cloud Wapicada Golf Course	Away

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