

# Reaching Everybody!

# Newsleaders

Friday, Sept. 20, 2019  
 Volume 24, Issue 18  
 Est. 1995

## Town Crier

### Frantober Fest set Sept. 21, 22

Frantober Fest, hosted by St. Francis Xavier Catholic Community, will be held starting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 21 and 22 at the St. Francis church at 219 Second St. N, Sartell. The event features Franny Flyer Walk and Run, live music, Dad's Belgian Waffles, a silent auction, bake sale, games, food, inflatables and more. For more information, visit [frannyflyer.eventbrite.com](http://frannyflyer.eventbrite.com).

### St. Stephen Citywide Garage Sales set Sept. 26-28

The citywide garage sale weekend has been set for Sept 26-28. Individual sales are marked. Stop by Howie's Corner Bar, The Rusty Nail or Trobec's Bar for lunch!

### Millstream Arts Fest to be held Sept. 29

Millstream Arts Festival will offer free, supervised bike-coral services by St. John's Preparatory National Honor Society students for those who wish to cycle to the festival. The corral will be located near the information booth. The event will be held from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29 and includes juried art, music, food and activities for all. Food-shelf donations welcome at the info booth. For more information, visit [millstreamartsfestival.org](http://millstreamartsfestival.org).

### Pumpkin Fest set Oct. 18 at Lake George

The 10th annual Pumpkin Fest, sponsored by St. Cloud Park and Recreation, will be held from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18 at Lake George. The event includes a DJ and dance party, trunk or treat stations, a hay maze, hayrides, a pumpkin patch, a haunted house, a petting zoo, face painting, inflatables and much more. Don't forget to wear your costume!

#### INSERTS:

Country Manor  
 Senior Housing

Sartell-St. Stephen Fall  
 Resourced Guide



photo by Mike Knaak

**Fifth-grade teacher Jennifer Olson wins a tricycle race that was part of the event revealing the name of Sartell's intermediate school.**

## Intermediate school named Riverview

by Mike Knaak  
[editor@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:editor@thenewsleaders.com)

Riverview will be the name of Sartell-St. Stephen's intermediate school when it opens next fall to serve students in grades three through five.

The name was revealed

Monday, Sept. 16, at Sabre Stadium with games that slowly uncovered the letters spelling out the name.

Current second, third and fourth-graders gathered at the stadium for the games that included a tricycle race and dance contest. The class that

won each contest could pick a card to flip over that eventually revealed letters spelling out the name in scrambled order.

Riverview Intermediate School will be housed in the current middle school building while middle school students will move to the old

high school next fall. The old high school is being remodeled during this year.

Built in 1969, the newly renamed building was the district's original junior/senior high school. At one point, it housed grades three-12. It has

**Riverview • page 8**

## Did the river drawdown work? Time will tell

by Dennis Dalman  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

The six-week drawdown project on the river north of Sartell and on Little Rock Lake is now over. Did it produce good results?

Time will tell, according to

the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The lake and Mississippi River will be closely monitored periodically, but the intended result of the project won't be fully understood until next August. Even this early, however, there are positive signs.

The drawdown is supposed to have changed the condition of Little Rock Lake so that beneficial aquatic plants will flourish, using up excess nutrients in the lake, such as nitrogen and phosphorous – nutrients that cause harm to the quality of lake water and to fish and fowl. Lake

residents, Boy Scouts from many area cities and other volunteers planted 45,000 "good" aquatic plants in exposed areas of the lake after the drawdown in early August. The lake level was lowered by 2.7 feet, exposing about one-third of the lake bottom.

**Drawdown • page 4**

## Family pleads to keep pet chickens

by Dennis Dalman  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

The Siemens family returned to the Sartell City Council at its Sept. 9 meeting to ask the council again to allow chickens in the city – or at least to make an exception for the Siemens' three pet chickens.

According to Sartell City Administrator Mary Degiovanni, there has never been a specific chicken ordinance or amendment in Sartell; it's just that

chickens have never been allowed in the city. The Siemens family would like the city to amend its animal ordinance to allow, specifically, for pet chickens or to grant an exception for their three chickens.

The Siemens informed the council of the results of a petition drive they undertook in Sartell neighborhoods.

The Siemens family has kept three pet chickens that are now being taken care of by someone not in the city. A neighbor of

the Siemens has a sister who lives in Grove City, and that sister and her husband both raise chickens in that city. The Siemens learned the couple would be happy to care for the three birds. So, recently, the family and birds traveled to Grove City, with the pets sitting on their laps for the entire hour-plus ride. Last weekend, the Siemens returned to Grove City to visit their pets.

This time, at her council  
**Pleads • page 2**



contributed photo

**Lia and Adam Siemens of Sartell hold two of their three pet chickens.**





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# Pleads

## from front page

appearance, the mother, Molly Siemens, backed up her argument with a petition she, her family and supporters conducted in six Sartell neighborhoods. They visited at random between 12 and 16 households in each neighborhood. All told, they met with 96 residents, and only six of them were opposed to chickens in the city and even among them, some said they are not sure or need more information, Molly Siemens told the council. Only one resident, Siemens said, was definitely against allowing pet chickens.

About half of the respondents, she added, know people who have chickens as pets or who raise them for eggs and/or food in other places, other cities.

Siemens said she and her supporters learned one thing loud and clear during their petition drive: "Sartell people are animal-lovers," she said.

Siemens, as she did at the Aug. 12 meeting, made her comments during the Open Forum section of the meeting, during which people are allowed up to three minutes to share their concerns with the council. Under the rules, the council is not able to discuss at that particular meeting any issues or questions raised by Open Forum speakers.

At the Aug. 12 meeting, the Siemens children (Lia, 12; and Adam, 9) also spoke and pleaded with the council to let them keep their pet chickens. The husband, Ryan, called their request reasonable, as he did also at the Sept. 9 meeting.

The names of their pet chickens are Clara, A.J. and Ivy. The family bought them 18 months ago via Mimbach Fleet Supply in Sauk Rapids when the birds

were only two days old. The purchase was shortly after the family's beloved dog died.

Molly is a registered dietician. Ryan is a facilities maintenance supervisor at the St. Cloud VA Health Care System. They live on an acre of land near the pond just south of Second Street S. in Sartell, not far from the current police station. They moved to the city eight years ago from Portland, Ore.

Mollie Siemens said the trouble began when someone reported to the city the family was raising chickens. The animals, she said, are "pets – pet birds, not poultry." They are, she emphasized, not dirty, not troublesome, not noisy and completely tame and friendly.

She said the reason her family started the petition drive was because there was "hearsay" that people would not want to move to Sartell if they knew the raising of chickens was allowed in the city limits. She suspected that was simply not true because she and her husband know many people who live in other cities where chickens in yards are allowed and are not a problem, including many cities in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area.

The Siemenses told the city council they would be willing to adhere to the terms of any kind of "exception" permit and to work closely with rules and restrictions recommended by an animal-control official.

Molly said she, her husband and children are disappointed because they have not received any definitive answers or decisions from the city.

At the Sept. 9 meeting, after the presentation by the Siemenses, Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitzthum noted the family and the city have been in contact via emails, and he said it's to be hoped there can be more follow-ups about the issue in the future.

## Background

The Sartell Animal Control Ordinance, under the rubric of "Non-Domestic Animals," does mention "poultry" under Number 6 among animals not allowed to be raised or kept in the city limits, along with goats, pigs (including pot-bellied pigs), horses, cattle, llamas and bison. Poultry, at least as defined in dictionary terms, includes chickens, turkeys, ducks and geese.

At a planning commission meeting Feb. 3, 2014, members discussed a request by a resident to allow people to keep chickens and bees in city neighborhoods. Some members at that time were somewhat open to the idea, including then-member Ryan Fitzthum, who was elected as city mayor four years later.

The official notes from that planning meeting state Fitzthum at that meeting said he was willing to consider allowing chickens on lots that are 1 acre or more in size. Planning-commission member Robin Oehrlein suggested the possibility for allowing a restricted number of chickens on a size of a lot to be determined. Member Glenn Persen said he was concerned about impact on neighbors and cleanliness issues.

Member Gary Orman said he was not in favor because he believes a majority of residents would not be in favor of the request.

After further discussion about permits, inspections and chicken coops, member Orman made a motion not to allow urban agriculture in a residential district, at least not until there is more demand from the public. Voting for that ordinance were Orman, Fitzthum, Oehrlein and Persen. Voting against it was member Lori Ellering. That motion against urban agriculture was then recommended to the City Council, which accepted the planning commission's recommendation.

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## 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 [tricontcountycrimestoppers.org](http://tricontcountycrimestoppers.org). Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.

### Sept. 4

6:55 p.m. ATV complaint. Brianna Drive. An ATV was reported driving erratically on the road and on the sidewalk. The officer located the riders of the dirt bike and stopped them. The officer issued the driver of the dirt bike a citation for operating a dirt bike on a public road and released both to their parents.

### Sept. 5

10:30 a.m. Warrant. CR 120. An off-duty officer recognized an individual who had a warrant for his arrest. An officer on duty responded and interviewed the individual. The individual was taken into custody after his identity was determined. The individual was transported to Stearns County Jail and was cited for giving an officer a false name.

### Sept. 6

5:20 p.m. DWI. Connecticut Avenue. A citizen reported a driving complaint. Officers found the vehicle and driver. Alcohol was present in the vehicle and the driver failed the sobriety tests. The driver was placed under arrest for the DWI and driving after revocation.

### Sept. 7

11:10 a.m. Traffic stop. Pinecone Road S. An officer witnessed a vehicle without a front license plate. Stopping the vehicle, it was also noted the window tint was very dark. The officer issued an equipment warning citation for the infractions.

### Sept. 8

6:10 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 120. An officer witnessed a vehicle with tinted taillights. Stopping the vehicle for the equipment violation, it was discovered the driver had a canceled license. After taking the individual into custody, cannabis wax was discovered in the vehicle.

### Sept. 9

2:30 a.m. Suspicious. CR 120. A citizen reported an occupied vehicle that had been sitting in front of a business for a while. Officer arrived and found a person sleeping inside the vehicle. The officer determined there was no impairment and the individual was safe and did not need help.

### Sept. 10

11:48 p.m. Assist agency. CR 120. An officer assisted a Stearns County Deputy on a traffic

stop. After an investigation the driver was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

### Sept. 11

11:45 a.m. Traffic stop. Second Street S. An officer conducting a license-plate check found a driver with a canceled driver's license. The officer stopped the vehicle in a parking lot. The driver was unable to provide proof of insurance either. The officer issued citations for both infractions.

### Sept. 12

10:20 p.m. Domestic. Riverside Avenue N. Officers were dispatched to a possible domestic and found an individual who needed to go to the hospital for an overdose. A victim was located nearby. Once the individual was released from the hospital, they were arrested for domestic assault and transported to Stearns County Jail.

### Sept. 13

9:40 a.m. Traffic stop. CR 120. An officer conducting a license-plate check found a canceled driver. The driver admitted they were driving and could not provide proof of insurance. The officer issued a citation for the driving after cancellation and a verbal warning for lacking proof of insurance.

### Sept. 14

7:35 p.m. Traffic stop. Le Sauk Drive. An officer witnessed a vehicle driving with a cracked windshield. The officer stopped the vehicle and observed the driver showing signs of drug use. Using a neighboring police K9, a search was conducted. Drugs, paraphernalia and hypodermic needles were found in the vehicle. Both occupants were arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail.

### Sept. 15

Midnight. Curfew. Seventh Street N. An officer located a vehicle and three juveniles out past curfew. The officer made contact with the juvenile's parents before releasing them with a verbal warning about being out past curfew.

### Sept. 16

10:15 a.m. Traffic stop. Riverside Avenue S. An officer witnessed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. The officer stopped the vehicle and the driver admitted to speeding. The officer issued a citation for the infraction.

### Sept. 17

7:20 a.m. Stalled vehicle. 2½ Street N. An officer witnessed a vehicle stopped on the road. The vehicle was not operable, and the officer used their raincoat to help shield the driver from rain coming into their vehicle. The officer waited until a tow arrived for the vehicle.

## People



contributed photo

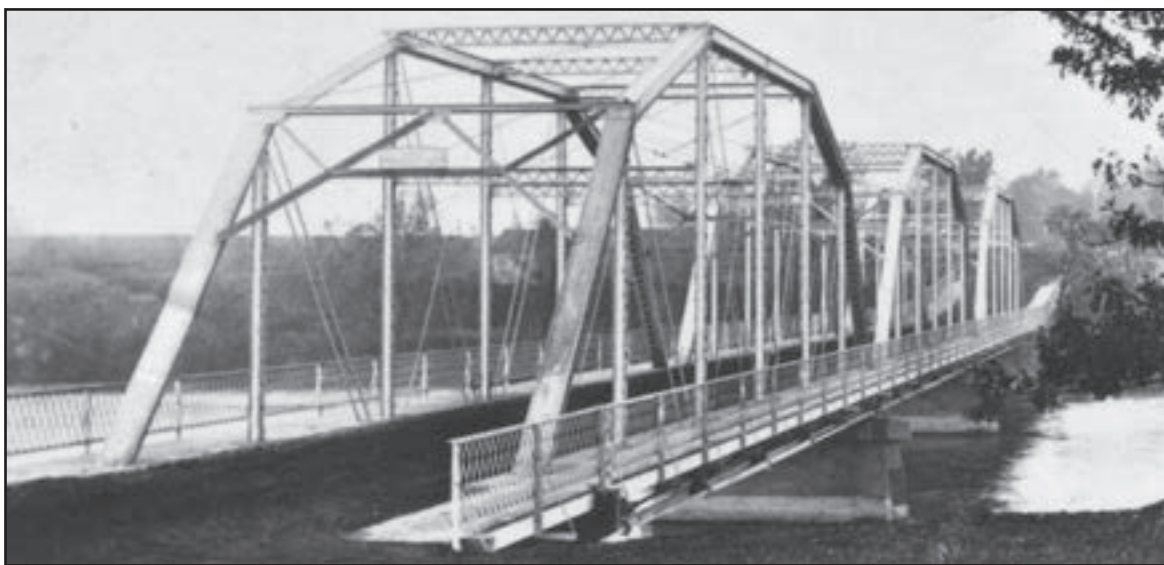
Dance team clinic participants perform during halftime at the Sept. 13 football game.

The **Sartell Sabre Dance Team** hosted its first youth dance clinic on Sept. 11 at Oak Ridge Elementary School. The 50-member Sartell Dance Team welcomed 93 clinic dancers and performed a pom routine with them on Sept. 13 at the Sartell - Tech football game. Clinic par-

ticipants experienced team spirit, learned choreography and shared in a performance to a full crowd at the football game.

**Claire Bruland** of Sartell has received a scholarship to attend Concordia College, Moorhead.

**Two Sartell students** were recently named to the summer dean's list at the College of St. Scholastica, Duluth. They are the following: **Madeline Meir** and **Sarah Symanietz**. To be named to the dean's list, students achieve a 3.75 grade-point-average.



contributed photo

The old Sartell bridge.

## Sartell birthday bash set for Oct. 5

Everyone is invited to a 112th birthday bash for the city of Sartell from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Sartell Community Center.

Hosted by the Sartell Historical Society, the party will feature birthday cake and refreshments, old-fashioned kiddie games, a model train display, a "School Days" exhibit and a concert by the Riverside Jazz band at 1 p.m.

There will also be free trol-

ley rides to explore the historic sites in the city at 11 a.m. and noon, but space is limited so anyone interested should register to reserve a seat by calling 320-258-7324.

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### CRAFT-VENDOR SALES

**Saturday, Oct. 5**  
**10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

American Legion - Waite Park  
17 Second Avenue North



# Drawdown

## from front page

The plants, according to the DNR, are flourishing, although weather, cooler and wetter than expected, somewhat hindered the growth of some of them.

The drawdown ended Sept.

15 when the Sartell dam began to close gradually, causing the river level north of the dam to rise again. The Little Rock Lake water level took longer to come back to normal (about a week) because of the narrowness of the channel and thus slower water flow leading from river to lake.

The DNR reported there were good omens during the draw-

down, such as the appearance of lots of pelicans and blue herons feeding at the lake.

During the drawdown process, volunteers cleaned up debris items from much of the lake bottom. Recovered cast-offs included lots of beer cans, vehicle tires, a snowmobile and two intriguing items: the skull of what appeared to have been

a horse's head and a gravestone dating from 1930. Research discovered the stone was from a cemetery in Fosston to mark the burial site of a man named Reier O. Watnaas, who was born in 1860. Fosston is 150 miles north of Rice. It is presumed that vandals, after stealing the stone in Fosston, dumped it later in Little Rock Lake in the channel water

that runs under Hwy. 10 about 5 miles south of Rice near Rumors Bar & Grill. Arrangements were made to return the stone to Fosston.

The DNR Fisheries Office, based in Little Falls, will issue results of its post-drawdown studies periodically during the coming year.

## 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](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com). Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.

### Friday, Sept. 20

**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. [mn.bentonhistory.org](http://mn.bentonhistory.org).

**St. Cloud Singles Club Dance,** 8 p.m.-midnight, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. [stcloudsingles.net](http://stcloudsingles.net).

### Saturday, Sept. 21

**FrantoberFest,** sponsored by St. Francis Xavier Catholic Community, 9 a.m. run, 4 p.m. Mass., 5-9 p.m. music and food, SFX Church, 219 Second St., N, Sartell.

**Community Meal,** 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell. Free.

### Sunday, Sept. 22

**FrantoberFest,** sponsored by St. Francis Xavier Catholic Community, 8 a.m.-noon waffle breakfast, noon drawing and silent auction closes, 219 Second St., N, Sartell.

**Car Show and Spaghetti Meal for Bri's Lodge,** 11 a.m., Trobec's in St. Stephen. Free-will offering for meal to support What Would Bri Do.

### Monday, Sept. 23

**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. [mn.bentonhistory.org](http://mn.bentonhistory.org).

**Sartell Farmers Market,** 3-6: p.m., Bernick's Arena parking lot, 1109 First St. S., Sartell, [marketmonday.org](http://marketmonday.org).

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

### Tuesday, Sept. 24

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

skills. 320-654-1259.

### Thursday, Sept. 26

**Coffee and Conversation,** a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Steve Cekkalla, learn the guitar.

### Friday, Sept. 27

**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. [mn.bentonhistory.org](http://mn.bentonhistory.org).

### Saturday, Sept. 28

**Craft and Vendor Show fundraiser,** 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Waite Park Moose Lodge, 1300 Third St. N., Waite Park.

**Pins to Pearls Quilt Show,** presented by St. Cloud Heritage Quilters, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Haehn Center, College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph. [stcloud-heritagequilters.com](http://stcloud-heritagequilters.com).

### Sunday, Sept. 29

**Millstream Arts Festival,** 11 a.m.-5 p.m., downtown St. Joseph. Regional artists including pottery, jewelry, fiber, glass, wood, painting, leather and photography.

### Monday, Sept. 30

**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. [mn.bentonhistory.org](http://mn.bentonhistory.org).

### Tuesday, Oct. 1

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

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

**Sartell-St. Stephen school levy informational meeting,** 7 p.m., Pine Meadow Elementary School, 1029 Fifth St. N., Sartell.

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

### Wednesday, Oct. 2

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

**Sartell-St. Stephen school levy informational meeting,** 5:30 p.m., St. Stephen City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave. SE., St. Stephen.

### Thursday, Oct. 3

**Coffee and Conversation,** a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Nate Keller, Sartell city planner.

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

### Friday, Oct. 4

**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. [mn.bentonhistory.org](http://mn.bentonhistory.org).

**United Way of Central Minnesota Midnight Run 5K,** 8 p.m., Blackberry Ridge Golf Course. Register at [unit-edwayhelps.org/midnightrun](http://unit-edwayhelps.org/midnightrun).

### Saturday, Oct. 5

**Walk to Support Building Bri's Lodge,** 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell. 9 a.m. family activities, 10 a.m. ceremony, 10:30 walk.

**Craft vendor sales,** 10 a.m.-5 p.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N., Waite Park.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wine and Whiskey Walk in West Des Moines, Friday, September 20, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Ten sample drinks for \$20. For details go to [whiskeywalk.dmcityview.com](http://whiskeywalk.dmcityview.com). (MCN)

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## PET CARE | PREVENTION

# Vaccines For Your Pet

Just like humans, pets are able to receive vaccines to prevent illness. Vaccines have been considered as one of the most effective ways to keep your pet in peak health. Talk to your veterinarian to determine which vaccines will be the most beneficial to your pet.

Vaccines are used to prepare your pet's immune system to fight incoming diseases. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals reports that these vaccines use an antigen to trick your pet's immune system into believing a disease is present. An antigen is a toxin that creates a response from an immune system without causing an actual disease. This prepares your pet's body to recognize and fight off an actual attack of this simulated disease.

## WHEN TO VACCINATE

You will need to talk to your pet's primary veterinarian to determine the best time to vaccinate. There are different variables that will determine the frequency. These variables include the type of vaccine, your pet's age, medical history and its lifestyle.

Puppies and kittens receive most of the antibodies they need to fight off disease from their mother's milk. This means once your pet has been weaned from nursing, it is time to consult a vet and begin vaccines to replace the antibodies they are no longer receiving.

## TYPES OF VACCINES

There are certain vaccines that most states require by law. For instance, almost all states require a mandatory rabies

vaccine. Some require the vaccine to be administered annually, while some require it every three years. Consult with your vet to determine the requirements of your state's law.

A case of parvovirus can be deadly for a new puppy. It is

recommended to begin your puppy on the anti-parvovirus vaccine between six and eight weeks of age. Other common vaccines for dogs include distemper and canine hepatitis. Cats also are commonly given rabies shots as well as feline leukemia vaccines.

## RISKS OF VACCINATING

Giving your pet a vaccination will mildly stimulate its immune system. This may make your pet become a bit sluggish or even cause a slight fever. This is normal, but you can relieve any worry by scheduling a visit with your

vet.

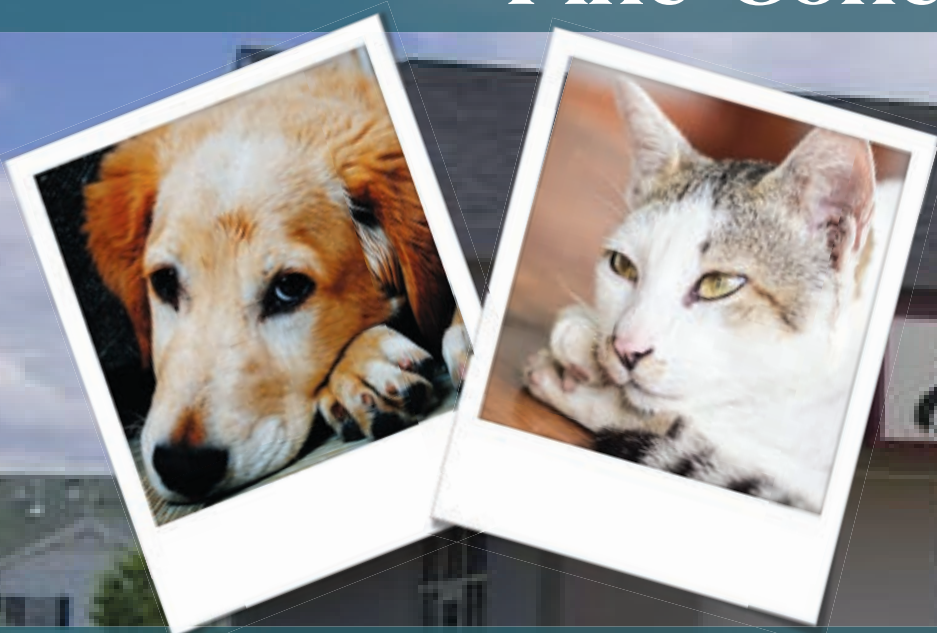
The ASPCA states that in most cases, the risks of side effects are much smaller than the risk of the actual disease. Be upfront and clear with your vet about your pet's medical history before beginning vaccinations.



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photos by Carolyn Bertsch

Leanne Skudlarek (left) and Angela Paulson, both of Sartell, lean over a second-floor railing in the Sartell High School and discuss some of its features from their birds'-eye view Sept. 14 during the community open house.



Karen and Darryl Cameron of Sartell explore the welding room and admire the projects on the table Sept. 14 at the Sartell High School Community Open House. Darryl previously worked in the welding industry and praised the room's design.

## High school open house draws a crowd

The Sartell-St. Stephen school district hosted community members on Sept. 14 for a tour of the new Sartell High School. The event featured a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the new school at 3101 Pinecone Road N. Students served as tour guides to help visitors navigate the building.



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The Steinkopf family of Sartell eagerly make their way through the high school. They are anxious to transition to the new high school in a few years. They are (left to right) Gabbie, 10; Jen; Tom; and Remi, 9.

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# Sartell schools adjust to growth, new high school

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

As students settle into their new high school, the Sartell-St. Stephen school district is experiencing some growing pains.

At the new high school at 3101 Pinecone Road N., there's been a traffic jam in the student drop lane that features a roundabout.

Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert suggests parents dropping off students wait outside the roundabout in the approach lanes instead of stopping in the

roundabout that leads to the drop-off area.

District officials have been adjusting bus times and routes to accommodate the new high school location, which is about three miles north of the old high school.

The new high school grounds added 65 acres to the district's land which means more grass to mow with the same amount of staff. As a result, Schwiebert said, the grass at the middle school soccer field grew so long that "it needed to be baled." A wet fall contributed to the

quickly growing grass. An operational levy defeated last fall would have added staff to take care of the additional grounds.

The combined kindergarten enrollment at the district's two elementary schools has grown to 400 students. Even if the district had money to hire another teacher, there's no classroom space available.

Next year, when the old high school re-opens as a middle school and kindergarten through fifth-grade students are assigned to the reconfigured buildings, space will open up.

## School district plans levy information meetings

by Mike Knaak  
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Ahead of a Nov. 5 vote on an operational levy, the Sartell-St. Stephen school district has scheduled a series of information meetings.

The district is asking voters to approve a 10-year funding increase of \$1.77 million per year. A similar measure failed last November. If approved, property taxes will increase \$74.30 for each \$100,000 of taxable market value.

The meetings are as follows:

- 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, Pine Meadow Elementary School.
- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 2, St. Stephen City Hall.
- 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, Oak Ridge Elementary School.
- 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, Sartell High School.
- 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 23, Sartell Middle School.
- 9 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 24, Sartell Community Center.

District leaders say the ad-

ditional money is needed to maintain current class sizes; support operations of six school buildings including custodians, food service, heating/cooling and grounds maintenance; and expand pre-K through grade 12 academic and extra-curricular programming.

The levy request is part of the district's long-term strategic plan. This fall, the district's new high school opened. The 1993 high school is being remodeled now to accommodate middle school students in grades six through eight. It will open next fall.

The current middle school will become an intermediate school for grades three to five in the fall of 2020. Next fall, the two current elementary buildings will house Pre-K through second grade.

The district ranks 324 out of 330 Minnesota school districts for overall school funding per pupil. School leaders point out the district is "property poor" with few commercially taxed properties.



If voters approve the levy, the state of Minnesota will provide 39 percent of the \$1.77 million requested increase.

For more detailed information on the proposal, school finances and voting details, go to [www.sartell.k12.mn.us/2019levy](http://www.sartell.k12.mn.us/2019levy).

Polling places for the special election are:

- Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.
- Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.
- St. Stephen City Hall, 1 Sixth Ave. SE., St. Stephen.

Absentee ballots are available starting Sept. 20.

### PUBLIC NOTICES

#### CITY OF ST. STEPHEN AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 41: ZONING SUMMARY PUBLICATION

The City of St. Stephen has adopted an Amendment to the Ordinance 41: Zoning. The Amendment establishes all permanently installed pools must comply with all ordinance requirements with regard to setback requirements and that site permits under Ordinance 42 are required for all permanent pool installations. Temporary type pools do not require site permits but must adhere to setback rules as defined in Ordinance 41 within the City of St. Stephen.

This publication is a summary of the Amendment to Ordinance 41. The full text of the amendment to Ordinance 41 is available for inspection by any person during regular office hours at the office of the St. Stephen City Clerk.

This Ordinance was adopted by the City Council of St. Stephen on Sept. 4, 2019 and shall be effective upon publication.

/s/ Jeff Blenkush, Mayor

/s/ Cris M Drais, City Clerk

Dated: Sept. 11, 2019

Publish: Sept. 20, 2019

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ST. STEPHEN CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the St. Stephen City Council will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 2 Sixth Avenue SE, St. Stephen, Minnesota to consider the following:

A request by Laure Lanz-Fuerstenberg to rezone her property, 303 11th St. SW, from R1 (Single Family Residence) to RR1 (Rural Residential).

Legal Description: Section 25-Township 126-Range 29, 9.19Acres, P/O SW4W4 BEG AT A PT ON E LN AT INT WITH RD(11TH ST SE)-WLY ALG 11TH ST TO INT WITH CTY RD #2-NLY ALG CTY RD #2 TO N LN SW4SW4-E ALG N LN TO NE COR SW4SW4-S ALG E LN TO POB LESS P/O SW4SW4 DAF:COM SE COR SW4SW4-N1D W ALG E LN 883.02' TO POB-CONT N1D W ALG E LN 442.12' TO N LN SW4SW4-S89D W ALG N LN 45.24' TO CL CTY RD #2-SWLY 25.88' ALG CL -S9D E 517.13' TO POB & INC P/O SE4SW4 DAF: BEG SW COR-N1D W ALG W LN 883.02'-S9D E 95.06'-S2D E 440.71'-S2D W 171.41'-S5D E 177.74' TO S LN-S89D W ALG S LN 18.96' TO POB

Anyone wishing to comment on the proposed request will be heard at this hearing or you may send your written comments (should be received no later than Monday, Sept. 30, 2019) to:

City Clerk  
City of St. Stephen  
2 Sixth Ave. SE  
St. Stephen, MN 56375

/s/ Cris M Drais

Dated: Sept 15, 2019  
Publish: Sept 20, 2019

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photos by Mike Knaak

A series of contests slowly revealed letters that spelled out RIVERVIEW in scrambled order.



Students donned blue Riverview T-shirts after the name was announced.

## Riverview

from front page

most recently been used as a middle school for grades five through eight.

Riverview was selected during a process that included suggestions from students and staff and voting that included the community. People suggested more than 50 names and more than 2,000 paper

and online ballots were cast. School leaders kept the name a secret since May. The other two names were Mississippi Mills and Watab River.

During the event, all students donned blue Riverview T-shirts donated by St. Cloud Financial Credit Union for a group photo taken from a drone.

Zach Dingmann is one of the current assistant principals at Sartell Middle School and will be the principal at River-

view Intermediate School.

The intermediate school naming is part of the district's larger strategic plan for building use. A new high school opened this month. When school starts next fall, pre-K through kindergarten students will be at Oak Ridge, students in grades one and two will attend Pine Meadow, grades three through five will attend Riverview and grades six through eight will attend middle school.

## Sartell school enrollment increases by 64 students

by Mike Knaak  
[editor@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:editor@thenewsleaders.com)

Total enrollment in Sartell-St. Stephen schools increased by 64 students compared with the end of last school year.

The district now services 4,098 students in kindergarten through grade 12.

Enrollment at Oak Ridge Elementary School increased by 46 students to a total of 790,

including an increase of 31 kindergartners for a total of 171.

Pine Meadow Elementary School saw a drop of just two students for a total of 687.

Middle School enrollment dropped by 38 students to 1,326.

Total enrollment high school, including Post-Secondary Enrollment Option and Supporting Academics and Independent Living students, increased by 58 students to

1,295.

At the high school, 11th grade enrollment increased by 2.3 percent to 318, followed by an increase of 1.22 percent for ninth graders, an increase of 40.

The number of 10th graders increased by 18 students and seniors (not including PSEO and SAIL students) dropped by six students.

The enrollment was tallied on Sept. 12.

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# FACT program helps feed hungry school students

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

It all started in 2018 when some students in the St. Cloud school district came home to tell their parents they'd seen some kids at school eating leftover food from the garbage. That's when a few alarmed and concerned parents organized a volunteer program dubbed FACT – Feeding Area Children Together. It is a way to get food to children that they can eat on weekends and on nonschool days throughout the school year. It will continue this year too. In fact, there are plans to extend the program to other area

school districts, including Sartell. But that can only happen once the St. Cloud district is going strong; currently, there is a waiting list for the program's services. FACT is now serving more than 200 students who attend schools in St. Cloud. Zurya Anjum, a Sartell resident, is a member of the FACT board. She explained how the program works. On the last day of school each week, bags of food are discreetly placed in the backpacks of children eligible for FACT. Those children are identified through self-referrals or by teachers and/or social workers. Each food bag, per weekend, contains two breakfasts, two

lunches and two snacks. All the food items are single-serve, child-appealing and shelf-stable. The need for the food supplements has grown "exponentially," said Anjum, who is urging people to lend a hand or donate to the program. Currently, there are three needs: One: Monetary donations (\$5 can buy enough FACT food for a week for one child; \$180 can provide enough for the entire school year). Two: Storage places are also needed for packing the food packs and for storing them until distribution. Currently, that process takes place in the basements of the houses of board

members and in local churches. Three: People to help current board-member volunteers to seek individuals, organizations and businesses willing to contribute in one way or another. "We have a long wait list and even though we want to feed each child, we do not have the resources to do so currently," Anjum said. "Our policy is to not start a pack for a child until we have the financial resources to do it for that child for a whole school year." FACT also stocks pantries located within each school that is stocked by donations from the community and is available to all students. FACT recipients also receive

boxes of food for longer school breaks, such as holidays, and those boxes contain fresh donated produce, bread and pantry staples. "If anyone can help us with this cause – with space that is desperately needed, with money or with their time, please contact us," Anjum said. "Let's take a stand that no child needs to go to bed hungry in our neighborhoods." To find out more, to donate or to volunteer, go to [www.stcloudFACT.org](http://www.stcloudFACT.org). Or send donations to FACT, P.O. Box 7832, St. Cloud, MN 56302. The FACT number to call is 320-281-9572.

# 'Bark to Future' raises \$51,000 for humane society

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

The annual "Bark to the Future" fundraiser raised \$51,000 for the Tri-County Humane Society at its Sept. 7 companion walk involving almost 500 people and 200 pets (mostly dogs) at St. Cloud's Wilson Park. "That's just about what we were hoping to raise," said Taina Quimby, director of philanthropy for the humane society. The money was raised via pledges to the walkers and by online donations on the humane society website. The proceeds from the fundraiser will be used for ongoing services and operations at the humane society shelter and some for the

ongoing efforts to get enough money to build a badly needed new shelter. The annual event included lots of family-and-pet-friendly activities, such as games, a silent auction, a dog-kissing booth, many vendors, music, socializing and – of course – the 5k walk through a neighborhood above Wilson Park on St. Cloud's East Side. The morning began with the threat of rain, but it didn't start falling until just before the event was about to end. Tri-County Humane Society, an independent nonprofit organization, has been in continuous operation for Central Minnesota since it opened in 1974. Its long-time director is

Vicki Davis. In 2018, the humane society found homes for 3,123 animals – cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs and more. Its adoption rate in recent years has been as high as 96 percent of all the animals it takes into its shelter. In addition, last year Tri-County Humane Society fostered 1,204 animals, had spayed/neutered 2,020 animals and hosted 45 spay/neuter clinics. This summer, it opened a cat adoption center near downtown St. Cloud. Dubbed "Kitty Korner," it is at the corner of Washington Memorial Drive and Minnesota Hwy 23. Currently, the humane society has raised about \$1.6 million for its \$3.5-million goal to

build a new shelter building on its current site in east St. Cloud. One of the organization's current mottoes is "TCHS: Bursting with happiness but also bursting at the seams."

To learn more about Tri-County Humane Society, how to adopt or to donate funds, visit its website at [tricityhumanesociety.org](http://tricityhumanesociety.org).

## ADOPT A PET

String is a 7-year-old spayed and declawed cat who should have an indoor-only home. She's gotten along with small dogs in the past, but she hasn't had the chance to interact much with cats outside of being housed in the same room at the shelter. String did fine with children of all ages. She likes being cuddled and scratched under her chin, and she loves to play with any kind of toy! String is a little bit mischievous and likes to be up on anything higher than floor level. A cat tree (or two!) in her new place would help keep her in the appropriate high places. String's adoption fee would be waived for a senior citizen or veteran.

**"Helping one animal won't change the world ... but it will change the world for that one animal!"**

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# RSVP asks Sartell for reimbursement help

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program has asked the city of Sartell for at least \$3,600 for mileage reimbursement for some of the low-income Sartell volunteer members of the program. The city will review the request during its budgeting process. Lisa Braun, director of the St. Cloud-based program, made the request at the Sept. 9 Sartell City Council meeting. Braun said there are 85 senior volunteers who live in Sartell and who provide more than 10,000 hours of service to 12 needs in the city – for example, work in schools (public and parochial), city services, Country Manor, Meals on Wheels.

Those people were given modest amounts of mileage reimbursement and a total of \$370 to help support their supplemental insurance. Not all of the volunteers needed or applied for the mileage reimbursement. This year, the reimbursement had to be discontinued because of a lack of funding, she noted. RSVP paid out \$3,200 for mileage last year. Since the cut this year, nine of the Sartell volunteers – low-income people – dropped out, saying they were disappointed at the lack of mileage help, as modest as the amounts were. Before 2012, the city of Sartell provided an annual amount of \$9,536 to RSVP, Braun said. After state-aid cuts were implemented years later, that amount was reduced by the city to \$4,768, and full funding was

never restored. This year, there was no funding from Sartell, Braun said. The total cost to operate the program's services in Sartell is \$27,474 before a state and federal reimbursement amount is granted to RSVP, an amount of \$9,500. Headquartered at the Whitney Senior Center in St. Cloud, RSVP began in 1973 as part of the 1965 Federal Older Americans Act. Its funding sources are the Corporation for National and Community Service, area donations and in-kind support, Minnesota Board on Aging, St. Joseph Township, Sherburne County Area United Way and United Way of Central Minnesota. RSVP volunteers serve the cities of Sartell, St. Joseph, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park and St. Cloud.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Filed in District Court  
State of Minnesota  
Sept. 17, 2019 7:30 a.m.**

State of Minnesota  
Ramsey County

District Court  
Second Judicial District  
Court File Number: 62-DA-FA-19-1130  
Case Type: Domestic Abuse

In The Matter Of Sonja Theobald Obo  
Minor Children Vs Wilson George

Notice of Hearing by Publication  
(Minn. Stat. § 518B.01, subd. 8)

**To Respondent named above:**

An order has been issued directing you to appear at the Ramsey County Juvenile and Family Justice Center, 25 W 7th St, St. Paul MN 55102 on Sept. 30, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. Order for Protection Hearing, JFJC Court Room 5A, Street, James J., and explain why the relief sought in the Petition for the Order for Protection should not be granted.

You may obtain a copy of the Petition and any order issued from the court from the Ramsey County Court Administrator's Office.

If you do not appear at the scheduled hearing, the Petitioner's request may be granted as a default matter. Failure to appear will not be a defense to prosecution for violation of the Court's Order.

Tama Hall  
Juvenile and Family Courts Administrator

Publish: Sept. 20, 2019



# Opinion

## Our View

### Area legislators deliver votes on conservative agenda

If you are a political conservative, a recent report about the Minnesota Legislature has good news for you. If you're a liberal, the news is that you've got to work much harder to elect legislators who represent your views.

The American Conservative Union released its ratings of Minnesota Legislators and the three people who represent our area received high scores.

Founded in 1964, the ACU is the nation's oldest conservative lobbying organization. The group advocates for political action that guarantees free exercise of individual rights by strictly limiting the power of government. It "seeks to preserve and protect the values of life, liberty and property for every American."

To calculate this year's ratings, the ACU selected a range of bills to determine a member's adherence to conservative principles. As the report's introduction says, "We selected bills that focus on Ronald Reagan's philosophy of the 'three-legged stool': fiscal and economic, social and cultural, and government integrity."

The ACU assigned scores to 17 Senate bills and 30 House bills and then calculated ratings for each member.

In the Senate, first-term member Jeff Howe (R-Rockville) received a 94 percent score for voting with the group's positions. He was one of only seven senators who received the ACU's Award for Conservative Excellence.

A special election in Senate District 13 sent Howe to the upper chamber after he served in the House. Howe's most recent rating improved from 77 percent when he was a House member and his career rating of 88 percent.

Over in the House, Tim O'Driscoll (R-Sartell) joined Howe with an Award for Conservative Excellence with a 90 percent rating. His lifetime score is 87 percent.

Freshman House member, Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring), needs to pick up the pace if she wants to join her colleagues in the conservatives' ring of honor. She "only" rated 77 percent.

Howe lost points by missing a vote to improve Affordable Care Act enrollment with tax credits. The ACU opposed that measure, SF 761, which failed in the Senate and did not advance in the House. Howe voted in favor of a bill regulating licensing for assisted-living providers that was opposed by the ACU.

In the House, O'Driscoll also voted for the assisted-living licensing. He also voted to include e-cigarettes and vaping in the law that already prohibits smoking in restaurants, workplaces and public spaces. The ACU believes the use of tobacco and e-cigarettes is a matter of individual liberty and that it infringes on the right of businesses and workplaces to set their own policies. The House passed the bill and, after the Senate approved a similar measure, it became law.

Demuth joined O'Driscoll by voting for the e-cigarette measure and the assisted-living regulations. She missed eight of the 30 votes in the ACU ratings so that may have lowered her score. Several of those were amendments to bills that included assisted-living facilities and Medicaid.

Demuth split from the ACU by voting in favor of the hands-free phone bill that has become law. O'Driscoll did not vote on that bill. She also voted for a bill that favored licensing for early education teachers. The ACU opposed the additional licensing.

Of course, there are many measures of how well our legislators represent our wishes but the ACU is the gold standard for promoting conservative policies. Our area elected three Republican legislators and they have certainly delivered on a conservative agenda.

## Why are athletes dropping football?

Sports Illustrated is one of my favorite publications for its dramatic photos, great writing and long-form journalism. Player profiles dig deeper than just reporting on-field accomplishments and are really mini biographies. Behind-the-scenes game stories report emotions and insights that are invisible while watching the event on TV or even in the stands. Well-researched investigations expose corruption and abuse at all levels of sports.

Usually SI sticks to the entertainment and business aspects of sports. But a recent issue drifted into the world of politics.

Two events inspired a closer look at high school football. First, Indianapolis quarterback Andrew Luck announced he's retiring at age 29 after several seasons of injuries, leaving behind years of playing and millions of dollars.

Then a new study from the National Federation of State High School Associations released its annual report for 2018-19. The report found for the first time in 30 years, participation in high school sports declined.

The two biggest contributors to the decline were football and basketball. The nationwide participation in football dropped to the lowest number since the 1999-2000 school year, according to the report.

And that was the statistical starting point for the Sports Illustrated trip into the land of politics.

The reporter looked at the state-by-state participation numbers and concluded participation mirrors the red state-blue state partisan divide.

Football participation is up in four "red" states - Alabama, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Utah - all states that voted for Donald Trump by at least 18 percentage points.

Of states that voted for Hillary Clinton,

**Mike Knaak**  
Editor



only Nevada and Washington, D.C., have seen football participation rates rise in the last 10 years.

According to SI and the high school report, football participation in red states was down 6.1 percent compared with a drop of 15.7 percent in blue states.

How much has the concussion debate and concern about long-lasting injuries affected football participation? Seventy-five years ago, boxing was one of the three most popular sports. It's now a niche sport.

In Minnesota, compared with other sports, football remains popular. The report says 23,185 students played football - that's about 18 percent of all boys in sports. There were more participants 10 years ago, but football's share of players, 20 percent back then, hasn't changed much.

Fans certainly haven't turned away from the game, at least at the professional level. According to SI, the NFL's TV ratings rose 5 percent last year and 46 of the top 50 telecasts during 2018 season belonged to the league.

For Minnesota sports fans, there are the Vikings and then far below, everyone else. The Twins appear headed for postseason play, the Wild continually sell out even while not making the playoffs and the Lynx won four WNBA championships in the last 10 years. But only Vikings games bring the state to a halt. If you ventured away from a TV during last Sunday's game

at Green Bay, you found empty streets and stores.

Perhaps the football numbers have less to do with the red state-blue state divide than with demographics or choices.

"We know from recent surveys the number of kids involved in youth sports has been declining, and a decline in the number of public school students has been predicted for a number of years, so we knew our 'streak' might end someday," said Karissa Niehoff, NFHS executive director. "While we recognize the decline in football participation is due, in part, to concerns about the risk of injury, we continue to work with our member state associations, the nation's high schools and other groups to make the sport as safe as possible."

Other sports are seeing increases, according to the report. Participation in girls lacrosse and boys lacrosse has increased 19 percent since 2012 with a combined 213,452 participants in 2018-19. Girls and boys soccer gained 70,668 participants since 2012 (a 9 percent increase) and now has a combined 853,182 participants nationwide.

Twenty years ago, soccer programs were just getting established and in the last 10 years, lacrosse slowly moved from club status to an approved high school sport. The high school associations' data goes back to 1969 and in those early years there are many blank spots in the charts for those and other sports because there were no teams.

Maybe SI is correct...that politics, culture and geography drive football participation. But today's student athletes have many more choices and concern for injury certainly affects those choices.

## Gerrymandering erodes our democracy

Gerrymandering is not exactly a household word. It ought to be; it undermines our democracy.

The cartoon character, Pogo, had it right years ago when he said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Volume I of the Mueller Report details the alarming extent of Russian interference in our electoral process. The meddling has yet to be addressed with the full attention it deserves, making it all but inevitable it will happen again in the 2020 presidential election.

In the meantime, back to Pogo, the enemy is us. As if Russian electoral sabotage is not bad enough, partisan termites are at work, eating at the electoral process. There are widespread attempts at voter suppression, such as moving voting polls far from towns to make them inconvenient to prospective voters, the purging of eligible voters from rolls based on specious reasons, limiting early-voting opportunities; placing onerous requirements on the processes of voting registration so prospective voters have to jump through hoops and hurdles (all supposedly because of "voting fraud," which is virtually nonexistent) and the Electoral College way of granting votes (a needless relic of the past in which the one who gets the most popular votes can lose, as did Hillary and Al Gore). And last, but certainly not least, is gerrymandering.

Every 10 years, based on census results, all political boundary lines in the United States must be redrawn to reflect shifts in population within each state. The process is supposed to make it so there are about the same number of people (about 711,000) in each of a state's congressional

**Dennis Dalman**  
Reporter



districts - the ones from which representatives to the U.S. Congress are elected.

Gerrymandering is a form of cheating. It's drawing the boundary lines in a skewed way so a district contains far more Republicans (or Democrats), thus almost guaranteeing a partisan slant come election time. It is, in brief, a way to consolidate party power in election after election. One party, one rule.

In most states, the party in power in a state's legislature is the one that gets to draw the boundary lines. In the past 10 years, Republicans have controlled most state legislatures, and gerrymandering has been rampant, thus favoring their chances to win repeatedly.

Gerrymandering has been challenged in the courts many times in many states, and so the tug of war goes on. Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 opinion, decided to take a hands-off approach to challenges to gerrymandering in federal courts. In her dissenting opinion, Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan issued a red-light warning about the Court's short-sighted decision.

"The practices challenged in these cases," she wrote, "imperil our system of government. Part of the Court's role in that system is to defend its foundations. None is more important than free and fair elections."

North Carolina and Texas, to name just two, are notorious for gerrymandered districts that favor Republicans, though to be sure both parties have indulged in the process throughout history. The many devious tactics used by gerrymanderers are as crooked as stealing ballots from a ballot box, a crude violation of the one person, one vote principle.

The odd name, gerrymandering, was named after a ridiculously odd-shaped legislative district in Massachusetts in 1812. That state's governor, Elbridge Gerry, signed a bill into law to create an outrageously partisan district near Boston. The boundary lines were so tortuously skewed a newspaper at the time noted the new district resembled the shape of a salamander - thus gerry- (after Gov. Gerry) and - mander (from salamander).

Some states wisely have commissions do the redistricting -- commissions that range from non-partisan to bi-partisan. A few others appoint independent commissions of experts to do the job.

The vast majority of states (37), however, (including Minnesota), persist in letting the party in control draw the lines.

Someday, let us hope, all citizens and legislators will see the light and demand independent commissions draw the lines in every state.

Meantime, sad to say, the 2020 election will likely be the most contentious in American history what with Russian meddling, voter suppression and - yes - gerrymandering.

When voters lose faith in the integrity of the electoral process, democracy - the very foundation of our country - can erode very quickly.



PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748  
AUG. 19, 2019  
DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER BOARD ROOM

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Chair Jason Nies. Members present: Nies; Jeremy Snoberger, vice chair; Pamela Raden, clerk; Amanda Byrd, treasurer; Lesa Kramer, director; Patrick Marushin, director; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Members absent: none.

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

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

a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on July 15, 2019

Minutes of the board work session held on Aug. 12, 2019

b. Checks in the amount of \$2,556,562.93 as presented:

General Fund	2,252,983.31
Food Service Fund	15,374.78
Transportation Fund	40,868.19
Community Service Fund	49,779.43
Capital Expenditure Fund	181,677.92
Summer Rec Agency Fund	15,879.30

Check numbers 175857 – 176077

ACHs in the amount of \$1,182.08 as presented:

General Fund	838.00
Summer Rec Agency Fund	344.08

ACH numbers 192000001-192000010

Receipts in the amount of \$1,499,584.34 as presented:

General Fund	1,281,970.27
Food Service Fund	17,292.12
Community Service Fund	30,138.54
Building Fund	7,951.58
Debt Service Fund	158,340.41
Summer Rec Agency Fund	3,891.42

Receipts 46297 - 46367

Wire transfers in the amount of \$485,565.60 as presented:

General Fund	212,841.33
Food Service Fund	7,450.37
Community Service Fund	69.57
Capital Expenditure Fund	51,869.45
Building Fund	213,049.11
Summer Rec Agency Fund	285.77

Wire transfers 201900022-201900090

Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$3,722,341.20 as presented:

Building Fund	3,722,341.20
---------------	--------------

Check numbers 600633 to 600682

c. Accept the following donations:

Pine Meadow PTO Elementary, Pine Meadow Elementary, \$3,310.87, classroom supplies/year-end activities; Sartell Wrestling Club, wrestling, \$1,500.00, Junior High/Junior Varsity warm-up tops.

d. Accept the resignation of Rachel Ertl, SMS, cashier, 7/25/19; Jordan Gieske, SMS, Fifth grade, 8/12/19; Kelly Hanson, SMS/Transp, cashier and bus driver, 7/29/19; Holly Justin, DSC – Early Childhood, health assistant, 7/22/19; Alyssa Kasella, DSC – Early Childhood, child-care attendant, 7/30/19; Vern Klaverkamp, Transp, sub bus driver, 7/25/19; Kendra Reinert, SMS, para, 8/2/19; Sue Sathre, SHS, receptionist, 8/16/19.

Student Representative Report:

No report.

Construction Manager Report on Building Process:

Construction Manager Lee Gruen reported almost all inspections are done with a few left with the State. The final punch list is being processed and the building is being turned over to the district. The fitness center and pool are currently being used by students. A video captured by the company drone was presented. John and Lee will begin transitioning to the old high school site after Labor Day.

Superintendent Report: Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent

Schwiebert reported the district is working with the architects to find solutions for too much sun in the pool area along with some slight noise issues in the pool and gym areas. Also being looked at is adding a Sartell High School sign above the front door. An email letter was recently sent to parents reminding them of the new school building start times. After the most recent health-insurance renewal the district has made the decision to go self-insured to have more control over future rates.

School Forest Partnership Report:

Grades 3-5 School Principal Zachary Dingmann reported on a proposed partnership with Minnesota Schools and the Minnesota DNR School Forest Program for 2020-2021.

School Board Committee Report:

Director Kramer reported on the recent article on active-shooter training and attended the August drills the police department hosted.

Superintendent Schwiebert reported the City of Sartell is currently looking for new firefighters and he would let staff know of the need.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE #1-22:

New Employees/Changes:  
Jason Anderson, SMS, junior high girls swim, \$3,248 (6.35 percent), BA, Step L (\$51,157), replacing Vicki Sabart, 8/26/2019; Warren Christie, SHS, industrial technology, \$26,123, MA30, Step R, .33 FTE, replacing Ariel Bender, 8/21/2019; Barbara Eaton, DSC, Preschool/ECFE, \$33.08/

hour, BA20, Step D, new position, 8/21/2019; Jen Euteneuer, SMS, seventh-grade volleyball, \$2,439 (6.35 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Ross Anderson, 8/26/2019; Valerie Gruba, SHS, food service worker, \$15.27/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Traci Schumeman, 8/21/2019; Bahaa Kadhém, SMS, lead custodian, \$18.22/hour, RIV, S1, 8 hours/day, 260 days, replacing Beverly Wiebe, 8/6/2019; Kathi Hammer, ORE, student supervisor, \$13.87/hour, RI, S1, 2 hours/day, replacing Meredith Penrod, 9/3/2019; Eric Kopitz, SHS, ninth-grade boys soccer, \$3,207 (8.35 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Kevin Argueta, 8/12/2019; Priscilla Lessard, ORE, AM cashier, \$15.27/hour, RI, S1, 1.25/day, replacing Valerie Gruba, 8/19/2019; Janis Minnerath, ORE, speech language pathologist, \$71,350, MA10, Step R, replacing Jacquelyn Schultz, 8/21/2019; Julie Peabody, SMS, cashier, \$16.87/hour, RI, S3, 3 hours/day, replacing Rachel Ertl, 8/20/2019; Charity Pesta, DSC – Early Childhood, receptionist, \$18.77/hour, RII, S1, 4 hours/day – 22 days, 8 hours/day – 182 days, new position, 8/12/2019; Shelby Rachel, DSC, assistant food service director, \$46,753, .85 FTE, 222 days, replacing Felicia Kittok, 7/29/2019; Vicky Sabart, SHS, head girls swim, \$5,631 (13 percent), BA, Step D (\$43,315), replacing Sue Sathre, 8/12/2019; Michelle Shouse, SMS, food service worker, \$17.59/hour, RI, S4, 3.25 hours/day, replacing Julie Peabody, 8/20/2019; Annette Theisen, SHS, AM cashier /PM cashier, \$15.27/hour, RI, S1, 1 hour/day – AM, 3 hours/day – PM, replacing Valerie Gruba and Marlene Burnett, 8/19/2019; Jennifer Thompson, SHS, assistant girls swim, \$3,649 (9.5 percent), BA, 0 (\$38,410), replacing Kim Mitchell, 9/12/2019; Sara Yarand, SHS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, rehire, 8/27/2019.

Leaves of Absence:

Shannon Determan, SMS, fifth-grade math, LOA, 12/28/19 – 6/2/20; David Gerads, ORE, custodian, Intermittent –LOA, 7/30/19-12/31/19; Natalie Helgeson, SMS, social worker, LOA, 1/7/20-3/30/20; Nancy Walters, SHS, para, LOA, 19-20 school year.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Snoberger to APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF KEMPS DAIRY FOR MILK

AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by Raden to APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT JEFF SCHWIEBERT’S ANNUAL APPRAISAL. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Byrd to APPROVE TRUTH IN TAXATION (TNT) TENTATIVE HEARING DATE FOR DEC. 16, 2019, AT 6 P.M. LOCATED AT SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL. All in favor. Motion carried.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Future Board Work Session – Wednesday, Sept. 11 at District Service Center - 7:30 p.m.

New HS Community Dedication - Saturday, Sept. 14 at Sartell High School - 11 a.m.

Future Board Meeting - Monday, Sept. 16 at District Service Center - 6:30 p.m.

Official Review of Policies:

The Board had the official first reading of adoption of proposed policy 713.

The Board had the official review of policy 620.

The Board had the first reading of revisions of policies: 610, 611, 612, 615, 618 and 619.

Committee assignments were reviewed.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6 p.m. was made by Snoberger and seconded by Marushin. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Pamela Raden, Clerk

Publish: Sept. 20, 2019

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contributed photo

Sartell Police Department Life-Saving Award recipients line up for a photo shortly after receiving their honors Aug. 26 at the Sartell City Council chambers. From left to right are Chris Kutzorik, his wife Sheena, Sartell Police Sgt. Ross Rooda, Sauk Rapids Police Sgt. Brent Bukowski, Phil Kutzorik (whose life was saved) and Sartell Police Officer Jake Walters.

## Five honored with life-saving awards

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Fast and seamless teamwork saved the life of a Sartell man, and those involved were honored with Sartell Life-Saving awards at the Aug. 26 city-council meeting.

Sartell Police Chief Jim Hughes read the citation as the honorees lined up to accept their awards.

At 2:53 a.m. April 22, Phil Kutzorik suffered what appeared to be either a seizure or a sudden cardiac arrest in his home. He had had a heart attack just three days earlier and was fitted with an arterial stent. As luck would have it, Kutzorik's brother, Chris, and Chris's wife, Sheena, were staying overnight at the house.

Noticing a commotion that something was wrong, Sheena, who happens to be a nurse,

rushed to her brother-in-law's side. She immediately began CPR on him as Chris dialed 911.

Within minutes, Mayo Ambulance emergency medical technicians arrived, and Kutzorik's stopped heart was shocked back to beating by an automated external defibrillator. An air tube was inserted into the victim, who began to breathe again. Three police officers also arrived at the scene and helped out, all working in swift coordination as a team. Kutzorik was rushed by ambulance to St. Cloud Hospital.

As Hughes pointed out in his citation, gesturing toward the lifesavers, "This is what is called teamwork."

The officers who helped were Sartell Police Sgt. Ross Rooda, Sartell Police Officer Jake Walters and Sauk Rapids Police Sgt. Brent Bukowski.

## Central MN Fellowship of Christian Athletes Presents:

# DJ Kirk

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Director of Chi Alpha at  
St. Cloud State University,  
Reverend Chris Cortte

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