



# Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Jan. 24, 2020  
Volume 25, Issue 2  
Est. 1995

## Town Crier

### Swing Dance

set Jan. 27 at SHS

The fourth annual Sartell High School Swing Dance will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27 at Sartell High School. The event will be held in the high school commons and will feature four performance groups: High School Jazz Band I and II and both Middle School jazz bands. Before the main event, free swing-dance lessons will be provided from 6:30-7 p.m. by StudioJeff of St. Cloud. Free-will donations are encouraged. All donations benefit the Sartell High School Band Activity Fund, which covers the Jazz Band, Pep Band and Marching Band.

### Colombia's past president to speak Feb. 4 at SJU

The 13th Annual Eugene J. McCarthy Lecture is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4 in the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater at St. John's University. This year's keynote is Juan Manuel Santos, a two-term president of Colombia (2010-2018). President Santos ushered in a new era of prosperity and peace in Colombia and his success was widely recognized.

In 2016, President Santos was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for his resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end." Santos has also been twice-named to TIME's "100 Most Influential People" and was honored with the World Economic Forum's Global Statesman Award.

Visit [csbsju.edu/fine-arts](http://csbsju.edu/fine-arts) to reserve your FREE tickets!

### SYHA Raffle: \$41,00 in prizes

Sartell Youth Hockey is now conducting its annual Scheels raffle with a grand prize of \$1,499.99; 100 prizes in total; 1:20 odds.

Winners can choose the awarded firearm, with proper credentials, or a gift card for the awarded value. The gift card is redeemable for any merchandise in the St. Cloud store. Tickets may be purchased at both Blue Line Bar & Grill locations, the Firing Line Indoor Range & Gun Shop, during varsity hockey games at Bernick's Arena or from SYHA members.

For more information, visit [sartellhockeyaffle.com](http://sartellhockeyaffle.com).

**INSERT:**  
City of St. Stephen  
newsletter

## Donation will help fund ice arena addition

by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleaders.com

A second Sartell ice arena is closer to reality after a second lead gift to its capital campaign.

Sartell Youth Rec Center, owners and operators of Bernick's Arena, announced on Jan. 15 the donation from Regional Diagnostic Radiology.

The plans for a second sheet of ice shifted in November from an open-air structure to an enclosed, year-round building including ice/refrigeration system, weight and dry land training area, locker rooms and turf system. SYRC is in the final stages of securing the dollars needed to begin construction of the arena.

The recreation group is

working with builders and architects to come up with the final development cost. When the group was planning the open-air arena, the initial cost was \$5.3 million, according to Brian Zimny, SYRC Steering Committee chair.

The recreation group began planning for a second arena in 2015.

Zimny said that when the estimates came in, the cost for the open-air arena was higher and the cost for the enclosed structure was lower, making the enclosed plan more attractive.

The group hopes to start construction this year and have the addition ready for use sometime during the 2020-21 hockey season.

Participation in hockey has

grown so much that the additional sheet of ice is needed to serve skaters from pre-kindergarten, through high school, college and even adults.

Zimny noted the effort has wide support from individuals, local businesses and the city. The new facility, Zimny said, will make Sartell a more attractive location for hockey tournaments. In addition, it will be equipped with turf so other sports such as soccer, baseball and football can use the space for games or for practices in bad weather.

As the lead donor in the project, RDR secured the naming rights to the new arena. Scheels secured the naming rights to the complex, which will be known as Scheels Athletic Complex following con-

struction. Bernick's recently renewed its donation to continue its naming rights of the existing arena. SYRC has not released any of the donation amounts.

"The increase in size and scope of this project is not only a great economic boost for our community - it is also a true testament to the financial commitment from our community partners who are excited to see this project break ground," Mayor Ryan Fitzthum said in a statement.

Regional Diagnostic Radiology has served Central Minnesota since 1975. With more than 20 physicians and physician assistants, the practice cares for patients across nine hospitals and multiple clinics.

## 'Yarn Ladies' bring warmth to people in need

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

Some people can walk and chew gum at the same time, but they've got nothing on Paulette Levasseur of Sartell who can crochet and go sightseeing at the same time.



Levasseur

She recalls a trip through the Black Hills of South Dakota, when she crocheted for hours without missing a stitch while looking out the passenger window at the marvelous scenery rolling by. Just recent-



contributed photo

A colorful stack of knitted and crocheted hats, created by the "Yarn Ladies" of Sartell, awaits delivery to people in need.

ly, she took her crochet materials to a Caribbean cruise so she could work her yarn on the plane flight and on the cruise ship when things got slow.

Levasseur is the founding member of a group of about 16 women, ages 63 well into the

80s, who are dubbed the Sartell Senior Yarn Ladies. Every Thursday, they gather at the Sartell Community Center to either knit or crochet. Knitting is done with two long needles while crocheting is done with just one hooked needle. All

of the items the ladies create they donate to people who need them - to clients of Tri-Cap, which is an area action program helping people in financial stress: to veterans, to people who are homeless and

Yarn • page 2

## Dog licensing no longer required in Sartell

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

Dog-owning residents in Sartell no longer have to license their dogs in the city, effective Jan. 13.

The Sartell City Council, after a Jan. 13 public hearing during the council meeting, voted unanimously to strike the license requirement from the city's animal-control ordinance. The rest of the ordinance will remain in effect except for some fine-tuning of

the text in some of its provisions.

In a memo to the council, Sartell City Administrator Mary Degiovanni said that while the city will lose revenue from the dog licensing fees, it will reduce costs by eliminating the license procedure itself. Many years ago, Sartell required the licensing of cats but discontinued the policy. Many cities, Degiovanni noted, have dropped dog license requirements. Sartell doing the same is a fairer approach because

there are far more dogs in the city than in the number of them that had been licensed.

Revenue from dog licensing in Sartell totaled about \$16,000 annually, Sartell Financial Director Heidi Ostlie told the council. The licensing cost was \$15 for a dog that had been spayed or neutered and \$30 for one that hadn't.

Two people spoke at the public hearing. Valerie Raslin said she fosters dogs and/or cats, sometimes taking care of litters of from two to five

animals. The ordinance does allow people to keep more than two dogs up to the age of 6 months old, but only two dogs over that age are allowed per single family.

Raslin also expressed concerns about unleashed dogs and the problem of animal waste left by dog owners. The city, she suggested, might consider spending some money to put dog-waste sanitary stations at some areas of Sartell.

Bob Barrett, a former City Licensing • page 4



## St. Stephen Optical

(formerly Index 53)

### Larry Rudolph, Optician

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St. Stephen, MN 56375320-252-9380 Office  
320-252-6924 Home

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

## It's time again for River of Life's Annual WILD GAME FEED!



6:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25  
at River of Life in Cold Spring

For everyone ages 12 and older!

There will be food, fun, prizes and guest speaker John. E Skipworth. Don't miss this popular, annual, FREE event. We will be raffling a new Mathews bow as well as many other free great giveaways, including a Mathews Mission Bow.

We hope you will be able to join us at this fun annual event!

See our website for all the information: riveroflifeag.org

River of Life Church: 22881 178th Ave, Cold Spring  
Feel free to contact us if you have any further questions at 320.597.7777

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if you would like to be in the business directory.

### ST. JOSEPH ROD AND GUN CLUB 27th ANNUAL

## ICE FISHING CONTEST

3rd SATURDAY

Saturday, Feb. 15 If cancelled because of poor ice/weather,  
NO RESCHEDULE. Refunds upon request.  
NOON-2:30 P.M. • KRAEMER LAKE

Tickets: \$15 Advanced (Until 6 p.m., Feb. 14)  
\$20 At The Lake

\$10 Kids (13 & under) Advanced & At The Lake

OVER  
\$3,000  
IN  
PRIZES

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First 200 Kids (15 & Under) Receive Free Ice Fishing Gear With Valid Ticket!

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FOR INFORMATION CALL 320-363-8803 or 320-251-2881  
ALL STATE LAWS APPLY

# Yarn

## from front page

to local police so they can give them to people (especially children) traumatized at the scene of accidents or other crises.

The Yarn Ladies group started in early 2018. Since that time, the ladies have created more than 600 hats/caps, scarves and other warm-clothing accoutrements. And that doesn't count the more than 200 items made by a group of women at Country Manor Apartments in Sartell, a kind of adjunct member group of the Yarn Ladies.

Their work is in hot demand. For example, homeless people often ask Harry Fleege, "Are you going to get any more hats from those ladies?" Fleege, 72, of St. Cloud, loves to help out with people who are homeless. He has an "in" with the Yarn Ladies because his sister, Mary Fasen of Sartell, is a member of the group.

Levasseur understands exactly why the items are so much in need. She was appointed to represent Benton County on the Tri-Cap Executive Board (other counties being Stearns and Sherburne).

"The people (helped by Tri-Cap) can pick out their own hats and scarves," she said. "Most of those people are working hard but are on the financial borderline. They get training, counseling, learn money-management skills. In some cases, that's all their kids get for Christmas – the hats or scarves we donate."

Levasseur also understands why homeless people value hats and scarves.

Awareness of the knitted items among the homeless, Levasseur said, spreads by word of mouth. A warm hat is a prized possession to people with almost nothing else to their names, people struggling to stay warm when they find themselves so often outdoors in winter.

## Life with Larry

In 1973, when living in New Brighton, Levasseur took a crocheting class, and she has been glad ever since that she did, largely because of her husband, Larry.

Larry worked for an engineering firm as an inspector and project manager, mainly for road projects.

Born as a "preemie" baby, Larry had a long lifetime of health problems, one after another after another, including five strokes, the first of them at age 37, and a bout of lung cancer, to name only some of the problems. At one time, in the hospital, he was diagnosed with 24 various ailments, including Addison's disease.

Levasseur was later so happy she'd studied physical therapy in college. She also worked at Fairview Hospital in the Twin Cities in the 1960s.

"It all came in handy when Larry was sick," she said, "because he had the best nurse – me. I was laid off from my office job in 2003, and that worked out well. Larry had a hearing deficit, comprehension and memory problems so I was glad to be there for him. I was able to work from home as a financial advisor for the teacher's union, and I still do."

With countless visits to clinics, to the hospital, to the emergency ward, Levasseur spent many an anxious hour by her husband's bedside or in waiting rooms. To bide the time, she would crochet, stitch after stitch after stitch, and sometimes, from his sick bed, Larry would watch, entranced, relaxed by the crochet motions.

Sadly, Larry died in 2015 at age 69. The couple has two children – Nicole, who lives in Crystal; and Lance in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Lance has two children.

"He had nine lives," Levasseur said. "More than nine lives. People always thought life must have been horrible with all those medical crises. Well, it wasn't. Life was challenging but not horrible. I learned with every change to adjust to the "new" Larry. At one time, he was a full-blooded, hot-headed Frenchman from Baudette. Later, the strokes mellowed him. He was happy-go-lucky and never complained."

## Yarn donations welcome

After Larry died, Levasseur let go of her knitting – for a time. But then one day she looked in a closet and saw a

huge stash of yarn. She decided then and there to use that yarn and so she put a notice in the Sartell Senior Connection's newsletter about forming a "yarn" group. At first, two or three women were eager to start one, later joined by more than a dozen other members. And they've been busy as honey bees ever since, with a constant growing list of clients eager for the caps and scarves. They include Pathways 4 Youth, Catholic Charities, WACOSA and police community-service officers, among others.

These days, Levasseur is not as involved in crocheting as she was just months ago because she is so busy making labels for the items, organizing them by size, packaging them and coordinating with others as to where they will be delivered.

The ladies constantly keep their ears and eyes open for yarn sales, including in cities far and wide. They also seek out people willing to donate yarn.

Yarn, said Levasseur, promotes conversation. At the community center, the women while making stitches also make small talk while sitting in a circle: family stories, travel memories, different kinds of new patterns and stitches. Sometimes there are up to five conversations going on at once among the various members.

Levasseur strongly believes the best volunteerism projects, like Yarn Ladies' one, are – in essence – selfish.

"By selfish I mean if I don't get something out of it, I won't do it," she said. "Crocheting relaxes me. It's fun watching others' joy, all those strangers becoming friends, and hundreds of people out there staying warm in our beautiful hats and scarves. That's what I get out of it. Now, that's selfish."

The Yarn Ladies meet Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. at the Sartell Community Center. Anyone is welcome to join or to stop in just to say hello and watch the ladies working and having fun.

Anyone who would like to donate yarn to the Yarn Ladies should call Levasseur at 320-252-9117 or 320-493-2050. Or email her at paulettelevasseur2@gmail.com.

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

# Newsleaders

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# Sartell to try ‘direct balloting’ for presidential primary

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Voters in Sartell will be able to start voting one week before the March 3 election date in the Presidential Nomination Primary.

During the Jan. 13 City Council meeting, Sartell Financial Director Heidi Ostlie told the council it is going to be a busy election season. For

the Presidential Nomination Primary, this year Sartell will introduce what’s called “direct balloting” at City Hall. It is, she said, a kind of hybrid combining absentee balloting and election-day voting.

Here is how it will work. Voters can show up during business hours at City Hall any day in the week before the presidential primary on March 3. A voter can request an ab-

sentee ballot and will be given one. After making their ballot selections, voters will slide the ballots into a computer to be counted. That way, voters can vote early and won’t have to send in absentee ballots via the mail. That particular voting process can be done through Monday, March 2, the day before the official election date.

For those who don’t prefer to participate in the “direct

balloting” process, Ostlie noted they can still apply for absentee ballots and then send them in. To request and receive absentee ballots, east-side Sartell residents should call the Benton County Courthouse; those on the west side should call the Stearns County Courthouse.

Countywide, the absentee voting process begins Jan. 17 for the primary. In-person absentee voting can be done at

the Stearns County Administration Center in downtown St. Cloud, at the Stearns County Service Center in Waite Park or at the Benton County Courthouse in Foley.

Voters may apply for absentee ballots by telephone or by email to those places. Absentee-ballot requests can also be made online at [mn.votes.org](http://mn.votes.org), and ballots will be sent to the applicants.

## Presidential primary absentee voting began Jan. 17

Absentee voting began Jan. 17, for the March 3 Presidential Nomination Primary. Voting in the Presidential Nomination Primary will be different from a statewide primary election with the following differences:

- The Democratic-Farmer-Labor and Republican parties are the only major political parties that will participate in the Presidential Nomination Primary. Donald Trump and the Republican Party have decided only

Trump’s name will appear on the Republican ballot.

- Each party will have a separate ballot.
- Only presidential candidates will be on the ballot.
- A voter’s choice of party ballot and how a voter voted is private data. A list of who voted in a Presidential Nomination Primary and the political party each voter selected will be pro-

vided to the chair of each major political party

Stearns County has two locations for in-person absentee voting for the full 46 days before the election at the following locations:

**Stearns County Administration Center**  
Auditor Office, Room 148  
705 Courthouse Square

Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Stearns County Service Center**  
License Center West  
3301 CR 138  
Waite Park

Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Voters can also apply for an absentee ballot online at [mn.votes.org](http://mn.votes.org) and a ballot will be mailed to them. Absentee ballot requests may also be done by mail. Contact the Auditor-Treasurer’s Office at 320-656-3920

or email [elections@co.stearns.mn.us](mailto:elections@co.stearns.mn.us) and an application will be sent.

The political parties will conduct precinct caucuses on Feb. 25 to address other party business including nominations for other offices and issues.

There will be a primary election on Aug. 11 to decide other contested races. The general election is Nov. 3.

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

**Jan. 8**  
4:30 p.m. Warrant. Second Street N. An agency sent Sartell police a warrant for an individual that was believed to be residing in the city. Officers conducted a search warrant at a residence and found the individual. The individual was placed under arrest and transported to Stearns County Jail without incident.

**Jan. 9**  
7 p.m. Verbal dispute. Hi Vue Drive. Officers were dispatched to a verbal domestic at a residence. Officers spoke with both parties who reported nothing physical occurred. Both parties showed no signs of injuries. Officers assisted in mediating the situation and advised both parties to give each other space to cool down.

**Jan. 10**  
5:30 p.m. Traffic stop. Evergreen Drive. An officer witnessed a driver who failed to yield traffic that had the right of way. The officer made contact with the driver and discussed the infraction.

**Jan. 11**  
1:30 p.m. Traffic stop. Second Street S. An officer witnessed a vehicle that was smoking. The driver was going to a nearby residence. The driver agreed to park the vehicle at the residence.

**Jan. 12**  
7 p.m. River Oaks Lane. Trespassing. An officer observed two parties walk onto property that was clearly labeled with “No Trespassing” signs. The officer approached the

two individuals and one attempted to flee. One party had warrants for their arrest. Both parties were arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail.

**Jan. 13**  
2 p.m. School patrol. Pinecone Road. An officer went to a school to visit with staff and students. No issues. Made police presence known.

**Jan. 14**  
8 a.m. Collision. Pinecone Road and Ninth Street N. An officer was dispatched to a two-vehicle collision. The officer observed no injuries. The crash did result in one vehicle having to get towed. The officer spoke with parties involved and assisted in the exchange of their information.

**Jan. 15**  
2:45 a.m. Suspicious vehicle. Le Sauk Drive. An employee of a business called in a suspicious vehicle sitting by the back entrance of the building. An officer located the vehicle. The vehicle was occupied by four individuals, one with warrants. The other three parties were told to leave. The individual with warrants was placed under arrest and transported to Stearns County Jail.

**Jan. 16**  
3:45 p.m. Tobacco violation. Pinecone Road N. A School Resource Officer was informed of a student possessing a vape on school property. The officer then witnessed the student with the vape. There will be school consequences and school administration notified the minor’s parents.

**Jan. 17**  
9:45 a.m. Fraud. Lowell Lane. A complainant stated someone used their credit card for unauthorized purchases. An officer worked with the complainant to cancel the transactions. The complainant was not sure how the individual had access to their card number. Com-

plainant wanted the officer to talk to the individual.

**Jan. 18**  
11 p.m. Lift assist. 19th Street N. Officers were dispatched to a residence to assist an individual who had fallen and was unable to get up. Officers helped the individual back onto their feet. Minor scratches were noted but the individual showed no signs of serious injuries.

**Jan. 19**  
9 a.m. Intoxicated person. Lowell Lane. Officers were dispatched to a residence after a complainant called 911 and stated they were being assaulted. The officers separated the two parties and found the complainant to be intoxicated. The two parties were told to stay separated.

**Jan. 20**  
11:45 a.m. Agency assist. Hwy. 15 and CR 29. Officers assisted surrounding agencies at a collision by providing medical assistance and traffic control.

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Little Sabres Preschool Open House

2020-21 School Year • Three- and four-year-olds  
Students must be 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, 2020.  
5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27

Stop in for a tour, meet staff and pick up registration paperwork. Registration starts Monday, Feb. 10.

Little Sabres Preschool

Oak Ridge Elementary School  
1111 27th St. N., Sartell

Drive Carefully!

School is in Session

### REIMBURSED STIPEND VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

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# Licensing

## from front page

Council member, said that when he was on the council, its members considered at one time forming a partnership with neighboring cities to deal with concerns about dogs but that nothing came of the idea. Barrett said he is aware of some people in Sartell who turn their dogs loose to run on school playgrounds, presumably when schools are not in session.

A reasonable animal fee should be kept in place, he said, to help pay for waste stations and other expenses to maintain animals in the city.

"We do not want police chasing dogs," he said. "They (police) have enough trouble with humans, though the dogs are better behaved, I'll grant you that."

Barrett also suggested the city could install some dog-waste stations in various places.

The two who spoke at the public hearing were reminded that those who let their dogs run without leashes can

be fined, the ordinance states. Stray dogs are brought to the Tri-County Humane Society in St. Cloud by employees of the Sartell Public Works Department. The humane society and city of Sartell have a partnership agreement to that effect.

The following are provisions of the animal control ordinance that pet owners might want to note:

- All dogs and cats must be given rabies vaccinations once they have reached the age of 6 months. A proof of up-to-date rabies vaccinations, provided by a veterinarian as a dated and signed certificate, must be presented to an animal control officer if the pet presents a problem or if the pet bites somebody.

- Dog kennels (commercial ones only) will be allowed only in locations permitted for that use under the city's zoning and subdivision code.

- All dogs and cats must have some kind of identification on them (collar tags with phone number, rabies tag, implanted I.D. microchips, etc.) so that, if needed, an animal-control officer or someone else is able to contact the owner(s).

# Fundraising hockey game features Minnesota Warriors

A Blattner Energy hockey team will host a fundraising game with the Minnesota Warriors veteran's team on Jan. 25 at Bernick's Arena.

Pregame activities begin at 7 p.m. with the puck drop at 8:10 p.m.

The national anthem will be performed by Minnesota Wild singer John deCausemeaker.

Admission to the event is free but donations are welcomed. There will be a Sartell Youth Hockey Association Mite game played during the first intermission and there will be chances to win a variety of hockey-related items and a portion of the chuck-a-puck pot.

The Minnesota Warriors ice hockey team is made up of Minnesotans who have served in the United States military. The organization was created to help wounded, injured or otherwise disabled veterans to have a place where they can come together as a team to support one another and have a great time doing it.

The Blattner Energy team is made up of employees of Blattner who wanted to put their hockey skills to use to benefit other organizations.

Blattner Energy is headquartered in Avon.



photo Minnesota Warriors website

Cheryl Kelly of Minneapolis is a member of the Minnesota Warriors' Women's Hockey Team. She spent five years as a combat medic and logistics specialist with the U.S. Army's Medical Command and Army Reserves.

# St. Stephen plans hearing on street bonds

The St. Stephen City Council plans a public hearing at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, on a five-year street plan.

The City Council is considering a street reconstruction plan that calls for issuing as much as \$1.5 million in bonds to support the projects.

An informational meeting was conducted on Jan. 15.

Citizens can present their views in writing or orally during the meeting at City Hall, 2 Sixth

Ave. SE.

If a petition requesting a vote on the issuance of the bonds is signed by voters equal to five percent of the votes cast in the last municipal general election and is filed with the city clerk within 30 days of Feb. 5, 2020, the city must seek voter approval.

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People

Nine Sartell students were named to the University of Wisconsin-Madison fall semester dean's list and dean's honor list. To be eligible for the list, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits. Each university school or college sets its own grade-point requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction. The students are **Claire Boschee, Patrick Eichler, Holly Greer, Morgan Gugger, Yash Hindka, Nicholas Juntunen, Olivia Plamann, Alayna Runge** and **Brandan Carlson**.

Fourteen Sartell students have been named to the fall semester dean's list at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Students on the dean's list have achieved a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. The students are **Bret Burggraff, Emily Driste, Rachel Eisenschenk, Alana Friehtl, Jack Hennemann, Bennett Hill, Eryn Kramer, Mackenzie Krueger, Nathaniel Miller, Alayna Paulsen-Trombley, Trevor Rath, Adam Schroer, Logan Stockinger** and **Alex Virnig**.

Five Sartell students have been named to the Minnesota State University, Moorhead dean's list for fall semester.

Students must maintain a 3.25 or higher grade point-average while completing a minimum of 12 graded credits. The students are **Mikayla Gessell, Briana Kowalke, Rachel Leisenheimer, Grace Middendorf** and **Nathan Stracke**.

**Rebekah Kucala** and **Brooke Walters** of Sartell have been named to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls fall semester dean's list. To be named to the dean's list, a full-time undergraduate must earn a grade-point average of at least 3.5.

The University of Wisconsin-Superior has named **Haley Winter** of Sartell to the dean's list for fall semester. To be named to the dean's list, students must have completed 12 degree-seeking semester credits and achieved at least a 3.50 grade-point average.

**Nathan Shaw** of Sartell has been named to the president's list for earning academic honors for the fall semester at Northland Community and Technical College-East Grand Forks and Thief River Falls. Students must have at least 12 earned credits as of the last day of the semester and a semester grade-point average of 3.75 or higher.



contributed photo  
Sartell Squirt B1 Blue team, coached by (left to right) John Getting, Jamie Burris, Pat Marushin and Jeremy Henkemeyer, took first place at the 2020 Spartan Classic Squirt B Hockey Tournament on Jan. 12 at Bloomington Ice Garden. The players are (front) Jake Ashby; (kneeling from left) Karson Kuznia, Cael Mueller, Cade Budde, Charlie Getting, Ben Marushin and Ethan Henkemeyer; (standing from left) Riley Burris, Landon Kimble, Toren Granroth, Thomas Volker and Vaughn Hilger.

Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples, has announced its fall semester honors lists. **John Grogan, Justin Houge, Christina Johnson** and **Jacquelyn Middendorf**, all of Sartell, were named to the president's list with a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher. **Josh Halicke** of St. Stephen was named to the dean's list for earning a grade-point

average of 3.25 to 3.74.

**Camryn Masini** of Sartell was named to the dean's list for a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Three Sartell students have been named to the fall semester dean's list for a grade-point average of 3.7 or higher at Gus-

tavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. The students are **Alexandru Florea, Kristin Martens** and **Laura Schwichtenberg**.

**Cali Fritz** of Sartell has been named to the fall semester dean's list for maintaining a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher at Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Fergus Falls.



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# Opinion

## Our View Stearns board should vote yes on refugee resettlement

The Stearns County Commission perhaps thinks it avoided making a politically charged decision about resettling refugees when it tabled the issue at a Jan. 7 meeting. The commissioners plan to take up the issue again on Jan. 28.

In September, Donald Trump issued an Executive Order that local governments had to agree in writing to allow refugees to be placed within the county and set a late January deadline for them to act.

But last week, a federal judge temporarily blocked the Trump administration from enforcing the order that would allow state and local officials to block refugee resettlements in their jurisdictions.

Because the court ruling is temporary and could be lifted or overturned, and because immigration policy will again be debated in this fall's election, the county board should vote on the issue. Residents deserve to know where their commissioners stand. Board Chairman Leigh Lenzmeier told the St. Cloud Times that citizens are split about 50-50 on the issue.

Refugee resettlement agencies have asked the 25 Minnesota counties, where refugees have resettled in the past five years, to confirm they support resettlement within their borders.

As of Jan. 8, at least 13 of those counties have voted to continue to accept refugees, according to MPR News. Several of the 25 counties have not yet taken any action on the issue. Three counties have delayed or scheduled hearings in the coming weeks or months. Beltrami County became the first county in the state to reject resettlement after a county board vote on Jan. 7.

According to background information prepared for the commissioners, during the last five years, more than 70 percent of people resettled were women and children. Approximately 95 percent of refugees placed in Minnesota were reunited with family members already here.

In 2019, 848 refugees were resettled in Minnesota, with 22 placed in Stearns County. In 2018, 663 refugees were resettled in Minnesota, with 12 placed in Stearns County. In the past 10 years, approximately 1,300 refugees were placed in Stearns County. Local sponsors report that nearly all refugees placed in Stearns County are reunited with family – almost all immediate family.

Statewide, the top five countries of origin for refugees are Somalia 23,990, Laos 22,033, Vietnam 15,074, Burma 8,549 and Ethiopia 6,364.

Resettlement opponents claim the costs are a burden on county taxpayers. According to data prepared for the county board, in 2018, public health spent \$31,481 assisting refugees, which included assistance and screening for people subjected to trafficking and enslavement. The county spent \$161,000 for interpreter services, all of which cannot be attributed to refugees because the county provides interpreter services for about 16 different languages needed by all residents. Refugees can qualify, the same as any resident, for state and federal public assistance programs administered by the county.

"City governments in the St. Cloud area report no discernible costs associated with refugees or immigrants," according to the report to commissioners.

When commissioners meet again, they should vote to accept primary refugees. Stearns County, along with most of Minnesota, should continue to be a welcoming place that supports diversity. Stearns County has a long history of accepting immigrants who want to join their families already here. That acceptance dates back to the 1850s with the arrival of German Catholics.

More recently, Stearns County is viewed, accurately or inaccurately, as a place hostile to "outsiders" especially people of color. Before Jan. 28, ask your commissioner to support a yes vote for resettlement and make a stand for wiping away the image of hostility.

## Canadians know how to get a grip on winter

After enjoying the snowiest, coldest 10 days of the winter, Minnesotans once again proved we know how to handle weather. We can mock those less-hardy citizens in other parts of the country where a few inches of snow or temperatures below freezing mean catastrophe.

But our friends to the north have an even better grip on winter.

Between Christmas and New Year's, our family enjoyed a week-end vacation in Winnipeg. We've visited Winnipeg before, as well as Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal. But all those trips were in summer.

For those who haven't visited, Winnipeg is a six-hour drive along interstates with little traffic. We planned to sample a number of unique restaurants and visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights that opened in 2014. We couldn't land reasonably priced tickets for a Jets game, but we did watch the Manitoba Moose (a team started 25 years ago as the Minnesota Moose) who play in the American Hockey League. For those on a budget, three U.S. quarters get you a \$1 of Canadian cash.

We arrived in Winnipeg late on Friday afternoon and soon we noticed two curious scenes.

First, we noted that a majority of vehicles lacked hubcaps. My oldest daughter speculated that perhaps Winnipeg suffers from a high incidence of hubcap thefts.

And we remarked, the cars were dirty. Unlike Minnesota vehicles, crusted with dried road salt, dirt

**Mike  
Knaak**  
*Editor*



coated our Canadian neighbors' cars.

The answers to these puzzles were not larceny or lust for mud, but Canadians adapting to winter driving.

Canada is one of the coldest places in the world – only Russia, Greenland and Antarctica are colder. So, coping with winter is serious business.

First the hubcaps. When the temperature drops, Canadians bolt on their winter tires and don't bother snapping on hubcaps.

While Quebec is the only province where it's mandatory for every vehicle to have winter tires, Manitoba and other Canadian provinces recommend installing four winter tires when the mercury drops below 45 degrees F.

Winter tires have replaced what used to be called snow tires. The difference is in the tread pattern. Snow tires had deeper grooves for gripping the snow, but the rubber got hard when it was cold and didn't work so well on ice. Today's winter tires have a tread designed to grip both snow and ice by remaining supple in the cold.

Since 2008, it's been a law throughout the province of Quebec for all motorists to have four win-

ter tires installed on their vehicle from Dec. 15 to March 15. These tires must be marked with the peaked mountain-with-a-snowflake symbol, which guarantees the tires have been certified to meet snow traction performance requirements. Getting caught without winter tires risks a fine of \$200 to \$300.

Now about those brown cars. Canadians go easy on the salt. They are not only concerned about the environmental damage of salt, there's a matter of chemistry.

Salt is only effective to around zero and after that the only other tool to help keep cars on the road is sand. Sand is the main treatment for city streets and less-traveled roads.

Instead of salt, Winnipeg is testing spraying beet juice on slippery city streets this winter.

The benefit from using beet-based melting products is that it reduces the chloride loading on streets and the environment. City officials say beet juice works to about minus 22 degrees F. Winnipeg only uses salt on main roads, with brine and sand used on other streets. Two small problems with beet juice...a foul order and staining.

The state of Minnesota and many cities use a commercial product to enhance brine applications ... but no beet juice.

While your friends vacation in Arizona or Florida this winter, consider heading north and test your winter coping skills with the pros.

## Impeachment deserves a fair hearing

During the last few months, our country has been in the middle of a process of historical significance, the impeachment of President Donald Trump. Beginning with the revelations about military aid to Ukraine and a July 25 phone call with Ukraine's leader Volodymyr Zelensky, further developments have embroiled the Trump Administration in an investigation of massive proportions. While it is easy to split into our partisan corners, accusing Democrats of a witch hunt or declaring that Trump is absolutely guilty, allegations of this gravity deserve proper scrutiny and resolution.

So how did we get to this point? Throughout the summer, details emerged that President Trump had talked in a phone call with Ukrainian President Zelensky about setting up a White House visit and military aid to Ukraine. As one of our allies in Eastern Europe, Ukraine is currently fighting a war against Russian-backed separatists in their eastern regions. To that effect, Congress had earlier passed a package of almost \$400 million in

**Connor  
Kockler**  
*Guest Writer*



aid that was to be sent to Ukraine.

However, this is where the allegations start. According to a whistleblower report and corroborated by multiple witnesses in the impeachment inquiry, Trump reportedly requested Zelensky open an investigation into Joe and Hunter Biden's actions in Ukraine, in exchange for the White House visit and military aid being delivered.

This is what has been talked about in the media as a "quid pro quo." While "quid pro quo" may sound like a confusing, fancy term, it is simply a Latin phrase meaning "something for something." In other words, Zelensky would do something for Trump (opening the investigations) in exchange for Trump doing something for Zelensky (setting up the White House visit and delivering the military aid).

The question may be asked then,

"what's the problem here?" In this case, if Trump in fact did make this request to Zelensky, it would violate several laws and procedures. First, since the aid package was passed into law by Congress, the president must see that it is delivered. The president isn't allowed to choose at will which congressional funding to spend or not to spend, as the Government Accountability Office stated when they ruled Trump's action illegal this past week.

Next, an investigation into the Bidens' conduct in Ukraine could be seen as a material contribution to Trump's 2020 campaign, as such an investigation would hurt the Bidens' reputation. Material or monetary campaign contributions originating from foreign countries or citizens are not allowed under U.S. campaign finance law.

But what if the Bidens really were up to no good in Ukraine? Doesn't that deserve investigation? That could certainly be true, but the way the Trump Administration is alleged to have gone about the process has also been called out as

**Hearing • page 7**



# Hearing

from page 6

suspicious. Rather than going through official State Department and Justice Department channels, Trump tasked his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani with trying to request the Biden investigation. This alone deserves to be looked into.

Now that the House of Rep-

resentatives has impeached Trump, the process will now proceed to the Senate. Presided over by the Chief Justice of the United States, the 100 senators will sit as a jury, where a two-thirds vote (67 senators) is able to remove the President from office. Just like a regular trial, the Senate will hear arguments from members the House has appointed as prosecutors, as well as the president’s defense attor-

neys. They usually also hear testimony from witnesses. The potential of witnesses has been a major stumbling block so far, as Republican leader Sen. Mitch McConnell has sought to delay any decision on whether to hear from witnesses until after the first parts of the impeachment trial are over. The Democratic leader Sen. Chuck Schumer wants it decided soon-er.

If this impeachment trial is to facilitate a real resolution of the charges against Trump, all the possible evidence needs to come out in order to get to the truth of the matter. Witnesses should be heard from and documents should be released to the senators and the public so all of the facts of the case can be viewed as a whole. Impeachment is a serious matter, and we as Americans

shouldn’t take this matter lightly. The evidence should be carefully followed, and the appropriate action, whether acquittal or conviction of the President then ought to be carried out. Regardless of party affiliation, senators should vote based on the truth. The integrity of our country is at stake.

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

## Don’t overreact to climate change fears

*Randy Klaphake, St. Stephen*

I would like to respond to a letter written recently in this paper about climate change and list a few things we know, and don’t know, more from a scientific perspective.

We know the parts per million of CO2 in the atmosphere have increased the last 300 years, or preindustrial era timeframe, from 280 PPM to 408 PPM current. We know CO2 is a greenhouse gas that has the ability to deflect back outgoing radiation thus producing warmer conditions. We don’t know all the consequences of such an effect, such as increased cloud cover from higher evaporation rates which have the opposite effect. We do know earth’s temperatures have been steadily increasing recently, which coincidentally coincides reason-

ably well with increased CO2 emissions, but we don’t know the extent of all the other potential contributors.

We know the earth has been considerably warmer in most of its existence. The Mesozoic Era, 250-65 million years ago, which supported the dinosaurs, was generally much warmer, more humid and very tropical. In the Cenozoic Era, from 65 million years ago to current time, the earth became generally much cooler and drier. In more recent time, the Quaternary period, the northern hemisphere has rotated in and out of ice ages.

We currently live in a glacial interlude. We know from pollen grains that 4,000 years ago the climate in Central Minnesota was slightly warmer than is currently. We know one of the glacial interludes produced sea levels about 15 feet higher than present. But we don’t know how gradual these changes were or wheth-

er these changes occurred in intervals of extreme fluctuations.

In relationship to droughts, we know higher temperatures can increase evaporation rates, which can lead to more severe droughts. We also know an increase in evaporation levels can also lead to heavier isolated rainfall amounts. But what we don’t know is how this will play out in the overall weather patterns. We don’t know how many droughts have been avoided completely, or reduced in intensity, because of higher rainfall levels due to increased evaporation rates. We also know from history that droughts have been commonplace occurrences.

We also know droughts can exacerbate wildfires, but we also know most of the Upper Midwest was originally the largest prairie land in the world, which requires frequent burning for sustainability. We also know woodlands, such

as the great Hinckley fire, and more recently Yellowstone, require burning for natural regeneration.

In relationships to extinctions, no doubt changing weather patterns can play havoc on species, but many other human intrusions could be playing even larger roles. We as humans, whether you believe in evolution or creation for our existence, our design gives us two unique traits when compared to other mammals. Our lack of fur or hair, and our high disproportionate number of sweat glands, allow us to survive and even thrive in very warm climates. We also know a warmer climate will increase production in many higher latitude locations around the world, and very possibly here in Central Minnesota. We also know higher carbon dioxide levels encourage plant growth.

From an opinion viewpoint, please be more objective in

your reporting, especially now around election time. Because everyone does not hold the same opinion, please be respectful of other diverse ideologies because facts can be elusive. The article on climate change was very derogatory to people who question all the facts on that subject. The human trait of overreaction is a survival instinct intended to protect us from predators and potential harm, e.g. when we hear the leaves rustle when traveling through a forest, it is better to overreact and flee then to see if it is a harmful predator.

Overreaction also makes us vulnerable to fear tactics, which can prove to be very convincing when only reporting one side. Social media is full of such tactics, but you can do better. I know it is only the editorial page but please try to report and represent both sides more fairly and equally for the benefit of all.

For a complete calendar of events for Jan. 24-Feb. 9, please visit our website at [thenewsleaders.com](http://thenewsleaders.com)

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contributed photo

### Geography Bee finalists

Sartell Middle School finalists from the Jan. 13 Geography Bee are (from left) Donovan Gerdes, third place; Nathan Ramberg, second place; Yazaan Anjum, first place; and Assistant Principal Abby Lyon.

## Kindergarten registration information night is Jan. 28

Kindergarten registration for Sartell-St. Stephen school district students begins with an information night for parents and guardians on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Next fall, Oak Ridge Elementary School will become Oak Ridge Early Learning Center for all pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students.

The Jan. 28 information night will include room visits from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and a pre-

sentation from 6-7 p.m. The presentation, for parents who are sending their first child to Sartell-St. Stephen schools, will include information about kindergarten curriculum, food service, health services and transportation.

Online registration should be completed by Monday, Feb. 3. For more information, Deb Johnson at Oak Ridge, 320-656-3750.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN, MINNESOTA

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### ON THE PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A STREET RECONSTRUCTION PLAN AND THE INTENT TO ISSUE GENERAL-OBLIGATION STREET-RECONSTRUCTION BONDS

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of St. Stephen, Minnesota, will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020, at 7 p.m. at the St. Stephen City Hall Council Chamber, 2 Sixth Ave. SE, in St. Stephen, Minnesota, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on (a) the proposal to adopt a five-year street-reconstruction plan and (b) the intent to issue not to exceed approximately \$1,500,000 general-obligation street-reconstruction bonds under its street reconstruction plan for street reconstruction improvements described in the street reconstruction plan. A public informational hearing was previously held on Jan. 15, 2020.

If a petition requesting a vote on the issuance of the general-obligation street-reconstruction bonds is signed by voters equal to five percent of the votes cast in the last municipal general election and is filed with the Clerk within 30 days of Feb. 5, 2020, the City may issue the general-obligation street-reconstruction bonds only after obtaining the approval of a majority of the voters voting on the question of the issuance of the general-obligation street-reconstruction bonds.

/s/ Cris M Draiss  
St. Stephen City Clerk

Dated: January 20, 2020

All persons may appear at the Feb. 5, 2020, public hearing and present their views to the Council orally or in writing.

Publish: Jan. 24, 2020



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(ASL interpreted, Feb. 21)

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