

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Oct. 4, 2019
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Town Crier

Last chance for outdoor Sartell Farmers' Market

The Sartell Farmers' Market is only open two more weeks – from 3-6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7 and 14 – to stock up with all the fall goodies including squash, potatoes, onions, meat, eggs, salsa, caramel corn, bread, honey and much more. The market is held at Bernick's Ice Arena on North Pinecone Road. This is the last two chances until the winter Market inside the Community Center starts Saturday, Nov. 2.

Stearns auction to sell surplus items

Stearns County and Sauk Rapids Police Department will hold a fall auction to sell seized and surplus property on Saturday, Oct. 12 at the Stearns County Public Works building, 455 28th Ave. S., Waite Park, three blocks south of Mill's Fleet Farm. Site opens at 8 a.m.; auction begins at 9:30 a.m. For more information on the auction, a list of what is for sale, and to see some photos, check out the auction flyer on the Stearns County website at midwestauctions.com or auctiondigz.com and click on Benoit Auction Service.

How community change after police killing will be subject of forum

"Community Transformation after the Police Killing of Philando Castile," sponsored by the Eugene J. McCarthy Center, will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17 in Gorecki 204B, on the College of St. Benedict campus. On July 6, 2016, Philando Castile, a 32-year-old black American, was killed by a St. Anthony police officer while driving in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, a suburb of St. Paul. Three years later, the city of Falcon Heights emerged from the tragedy as a model for other communities experiencing rifts in police-community relations. While nothing can bring Castile's life back, join us for a dialogue on how we can all build stronger communities.

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:
City of St. Stephen
Country Manor
Levy for Learning

City tax rate to decrease slightly

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

After months of work, the Sartell city staff and the City Council presented a preliminary budget and levy for 2020, and the council approved it unanimously at its Sept. 23 meeting.

The good news is the tax rate will decrease by about 0.60 percent from this year's rate.

The city's general fund budget would increase by

2.5 percent to a total of \$5,174,069.

Other items in the budget, other than the general fund, include capital/equipment funds \$456,000; street-abatement funds \$422,000; 2006/2012 debt service funds \$145,000; 2018 public-safety facility (new police/fire building) phase 1 \$650,000; 2019 public safety facility Phase 2 \$130,000; and 2019 fire platform truck debt service \$52,000.

The total preliminary levy

is \$7,295,793.

The preliminary budget and levy are not yet set in stone. The council cannot increase them once they are approved.

However, it can decrease the amount after hearing public input at the open budget/levy public hearing set for 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 9.

Sartell Financial Director Heidi Ostlie pointed out salient features of the budget at the council meeting.

Preliminary tax notices

will be sent to property owners in November and will include the preliminary budget and levy information for each governmental unit applicable for each taxpayer.

It was the goal of the council and city staff to get as close as possible to a flat tax rate or a slight decrease in it, which was accomplished.

"Thanks to staff for finding cuts to get us where we are," said Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitzthum.

Student shares pie-throwing prize with friend

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A Pine Meadow Elementary School fourth-grader's decision to pass on a chance to throw a pie in the principal's face surprised teachers and students.

Nathan Boesen raised the most money in the Parent Teacher Organization's annual fundraiser. When the time came for him to collect on his prize, he decided to offer it to a classmate.

Nathan won the award when he was a first-grader and figured another student should have the chance to fling a pie at Principal Sara Nelson.

Nathan chose fourth-grader Landon Fish, a friend who had shown him kindness.

"It was really unexpected and I was excited," Landon said. "We've been in the same class since first grade."

Landon wanted Nathan to be part of the event too, so Nathan filled the pie tin with whipped cream.

"There were lots of tears from the staff," said Tiffany Heathcote, a second-grade teacher who helped organize the event. "For a fourth-grader to

Pie • back page



contributed photo

Pine Meadow Elementary School Principal Sara Nelson awaits her fate while Nathan Boesen (left) and Landon Fish fill a pie plate with help from teacher Shannon Kral.

Substance-free meeting focuses on vaping

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

As news of vaping-relating illnesses and deaths mount, an Oct. 8 program in Sartell takes on added urgency.

The Sartell-St. Stephen school district's Substance-Free Coalition has scheduled Summer Hagy from the American Health Association to speak on the health dangers of vaping and e-cigarettes. The event is 6 p.m. at Sartell Middle School and the public is invited, espe-

cially students and parents.

"What is scary is that kids think it is a safe alternative to smoking, but it's not," said School Resource Officer Rob Lyon.

Lyon, who is assigned to the high school this year but served at the middle school last year, said he's seen one cigarette violation in two years but the same time 10-12 vaping violations.

"Kids see friends do it and think it's acceptable," Lyon said.

Vaping, like tobacco products, is legal for people 18 or

older. But in school, there's zero tolerance for vaping and tobacco products on school grounds. That includes parents and visitors.

The coalition promotes helping students make positive decisions about being substance-free. The group sponsors monthly meetings the second Tuesday of each month.

Matt Peterson is the school's therapist and chemical health consultant. He sees vaping as one of the four main abused substances along with marijuana,

prescription drugs and alcohol.

The Center's for Disease Control reports 805 cases of lung injury as of Sept. 26 in 46 states, including Minnesota. Seventeen deaths have been confirmed including one in Minnesota.

The CDC collected age and sex information from 373 cases. Of those cases, 72 percent are males, two-thirds are ages 18 to 34 and 16 percent are children under age 18. All cases have a history of vaping.

Vaping • back page



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if you would like to be in the business directory.**

Bearson died of asphyxia, medical examiner rules

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Tom Bearson, the young Sartell man who was murdered five years ago in the Fargo-Moorhead area, died of asphyxia, according to the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's office, but the killing remains unsolved.

The autopsy results were just recently released to the public. Asphyxia, death through lack of oxygen, can be caused by manual strangulation or another form of suffocation. Bearson's family and investigators have long said they believe Bearson was murdered by someone who knew him.

Bearson grew up in Sartell, the son of Debbie and Greg Bearson and brother of older sister, Maddie. He was a topnotch

basketball player and had many friends, who prized his lively spirit and sense of humor.

He enrolled in North Dakota State University's nursing program in fall of 2014 and lived there in a dorm. But four weeks later, on Sept. 20, he was reported missing. A massive search was initiated, and three days later his body was found on the lot of a recreational-vehicle sales company in Moorhead.

Bearson's death at age 18 devastated family, friends and acquaintances. In his memory, they created the Tom Bearson



Tom Bearson

Foundation, which raises funds for causes they say Tom would have approved: youth basketball, public and school safety, scholarships and the restoration of the gymnasium at St. Francis Xavier Elementary School, which he attended and where he honed his superb basketball skills. So far, the foundation has raised and distributed more than \$120,000.

Moorhead Deputy Police Chief Tory Jacobson said Bearson's death is still very much under active investigation, and a new investigator has recently been assigned to the case.

The investigators and Bearson's family and friends are hoping someone will come forward who knows who killed Tom or who might have clues as to what happened.

People

Jordan Mareck of Sartell received a Chancellor's Scholarship from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for the 2019-20 academic year.

Bailey Offerdahl, daughter of Diane and Tom Offerdahl, of Sartell participated in the White

Coat Ceremony at North Dakota State University. The event was Sept. 14. She is a student in NDSU's Doctor of Pharmacy program. Offerdahl was among NDSU pharmacy students who took the oath of a pharmacist during the ceremony. Each student received a white coat

symbolizing her or his duty to patients and colleagues as they enter the pharmacy profession. Together with the administration of the Oath of a Pharmacist, the ceremony helps make the student aware they are part of a time-honored profession.

Obituary

Sandra "Sandy" K. Sexton, 74, Sartell

Sept. 28, 1944-Sept. 19, 2019

Sandra "Sandy" K. Sexton, 74, of Sartell died Sept. 19 at her home. Her funeral was held Sept. 28 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell. The Rev. Eberhardt Schefers officiated and burial was in the parish cemetery.

Sexton was born Sept. 28, 1944, to Peter and Agnes (Eveslage) Fuchs in Montevideo. She grew up in Marshall and graduated from Central Catholic High School. She mar-



Sexton

ried the love of her life, Robert Sexton, in Marshall on Sept. 9, 1967. Together they raised their family on the Mississippi in Sartell. Sexton worked as an LPN at St. Cloud Hospital. She was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and was active with the Befrienders Ministry, choir, Bible study and Christian Mothers. She enjoyed gardening, canning, baking and reading. Sandy's strong will and faith helped her through many medical trials, including kidney transplants in 1973 and 1994. She was loving, giving, and cherished time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Survivors include the following: her husband, Bob, of Sartell; children, Bobbi Jo (Craig) Lamp of Shakopee, Gina (Mark) Halstrom of Sartell, Ryan (Tracy) of Sar-

tell; grandchildren, Madisen, MacKenzie and Benjamin Lamp, Bria, Mason, Riley, Carter and Madeline Halstrom, and Ryan and Gunner Sexton; great-grandson, Ryder; sister, Lynette (Herman) Pietrowski of Little Falls; brothers-in-law, Fred (Del) Sexton of Rice, Jim (Yvonne) Sexton of Wayzata; and many beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; and sister-in-law, Colleen (John) Hansen.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Thomas Schwab at the Mayo Clinic and St. Croix Hospice.

Memorials are preferred to Cathedral High School or Gift of Life Transplant House.

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

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Newsleaders

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With winter coming, residents fear more frozen pipes

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

While most homeowners this time of year are thinking about keeping their lawns mowed and anticipating the fall leaves, homeowners in Sartell’s Oak Pond neighborhood have their minds on the future and the frozen days of winter.

Four neighbors on Oak Pond Court have struggled for years with frozen water lines during the winter and they are running out of options to find a solution.

In May, the four, Carol DeGiovanni, Sara Magee, Elaine Hanson and Debra Kellerman, spoke at the open forum portion of the Sartell City Council meeting and asked the city to fix the problem.

The homeowners say that water lines to their homes were not buried deep enough and they want the city to fix the problem.

City officials listened to the problem and then referred the

claim to the city’s insurance company. In a letter dated July 26, the insurance adjuster wrote that “the city of Sartell is not negligent for the issues with the water main service line” and further stated “In order for the city to be responsible for this incident, your damage must result from a negligent act or omission by the City.”

DeGiovanni, who lives at 928 Oak Pond Court, reported a frozen water line in March 2019. After a plumber thawed the line, he reported the line was about “half as deep as it should be.”

Debra Kellerman told the council her residence was built in 2001 and the owners at that time reported they ran water during the winter from 2002 to 2015 to keep it from freezing. The city reduced their water bill as a part of a citywide program. The city ended the reduced billing after the winter of 2015. After Kellerman and her husband bought the house at 924 Oak Pond Court in October 2017,

they experienced frozen pipes in February 2018.

Kellerman hired a plumber to check the water line and learned that from the cutoff valve to the water main connection, the line was buried about 4½ and 5½ feet, when general practice is to bury water pipes 7 feet deep. In September 2018, the line was repaired with the bills topping \$15,000, Kellerman told the council in May.

During the brutally cold winter of 2014, arctic air pushed into the upper Midwest in early January, causing extremely cold temperatures and wind chills across the region and frozen pipes for the neighborhood. On Jan. 5, 6 and 7, there were low temperatures of -23, -24 and -22.

Magee’s water service froze in 2014 and she hired a contractor to thaw it.

Hanson’s line froze in February 2014 and it cost \$400 to have it thawed.

The homeowners claim that water lines were not installed

according to code and that the pipes should have been buried at least 7 feet to avoid freezing. During construction, inspectors should have made sure the lines were deep enough, they say.

A building inspector signed off on plumbing and water service. City Administrator Mary Degiovanni said the inspector only insures a proper and working connection to the service line.

A suggestion to continually run water during the winter is a poor solution, they say. Because the rate reduction ended, their water bills would increase. They also are not comfortable with leaving water run in their homes while they are away.

The answer, they say, is to dig up the pipes and make sure they are buried deeper.

Magee, who lives at 916 Oak Pond Court, says the repair could cost \$11,000 to \$12,000. She would at least like the city to pay half the costs.

In her statement to the coun-

cil, Hanson asked the city to check the depth of all the water lines in the cul-de-sac, reimburse the owners for thawing and repairs, and pay for repairing the lines to three remaining homes.

With winter coming, the neighbors are running out of solutions. Carol DeGiovanni contacted the State Auditor and Attorney General and was told to hire a private attorney, which she said she’s in the process of doing.

“I want them to take responsibility and fix it before winter,” Carol DeGiovanni said.

“We don’t want to face this every year,” Magee said. “Not being able to leave the house. We don’t want to leave water running when we’re gone.”

Pathways 4 Youth sets live fundraiser Oct. 12 along Division

Did you know St. Cloud has more than 100 homeless youth ages 16-24? Pathways 4 Youth is conducting a live fundraiser from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12 along Division Street, across from Gilleland Chevrolet. Experience St. Cloud’s reality and help end local youth homelessness. Take action. Donate at pathways4youthmn.org or text PATHWAYS to 21000.

People



contributed photo

On Aug. 10 the family of the late Lawrence and Eleanor Weyer gathered at the Lion’s Park in Sartell for a reunion. Lion’s park is the former Lawrence Weyer farm on which 11 children were born and raised. All 11 are living today and in good health. The oldest member of the family is 84 years old and the youngest is 64. Pictured here are the children from oldest to youngest. They are Rupert, Raymond, Leander, La Verne Braun, Jeanette Trobec, Steve, Harvey, Dorothy Martini, Lawrence Jr., Linda and Theresa Amundson. They all reside in the Central Minnesota area except for Theresa who lives in Florence, Oregon.

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Council declines to revisit 'chickens' issue

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell City Council will not be discussing chickens in the city limits – at least not anytime soon.

At its Sept. 23 meeting, members voted unanimously not to pursue that topic at upcoming meetings.

Mayor Ryan Fitzthum and council member Mike Chisum said that issue – whether to allow chickens in yards of city residents – had been discussed at council workshops and council members had received input from residents via emails and phone calls. Neither Chisum nor Fitzthum divulged what kind of communication they received from residents – whether pro, con or indifferent. Both expressed

no interest in revisiting the issue. Council member Brady Andel concurred. Chisum said he has no interest in amending the city’s “poultry ordinance” at this time.

The council action followed a request by the Ryan and Molly Siemens family to bring the topic up for public discussion at an upcoming council meeting.

The Siemenses had attended council meetings twice, pleading for council members to allow the family to keep their three pet chickens, which they purchased as chicks about 18 months ago, unaware at the time the city had an ordinance against having chickens in yards.

The day after the council meeting, Fitzthum emailed Molly Siemens to inform her

with regret of the council’s decision. She said she, her family, friends, neighbors and supporters are very disappointed.

“The council members may not be looking into this issue, but the community sure is,” she said, noting that stories in the Newsleader about their pet chickens has brought “overwhelming” support for her family’s efforts to keep their pets. The support, she said, has been constantly offered by school students, teachers, coaches and parents – all of them strongly favoring a change in the city’s animal ordinance to allow for pet chickens.

“Sartell,” said Siemens, “is filled with people who love animals, including pet chickens.”



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

Demolition likely for east water treatment plant

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell’s east side water treatment plant will likely be demolished in spring or summer of 2020.

However, in the meantime, the Sartell City Council at its Sept. 23 meeting requested city staff to do a “parallel study” of

the plant that would include the value of that building, the cost of tearing it down and the feasibility of selling it or using it for some other purpose.

The results of that study will be discussed at a future council meeting.

April Ryan, an engineer with the city’s engineering firm, Scott Elliott Hendrickson, presented

background and the firm’s and city staff’s recommendation for demolition at the council meeting.

The east side plant is the oldest of the city’s three water treatment plants. If it is torn down and its three wells capped, there will be plenty of water available for the city’s uses, said Sartell Public Works Director John Kothenbeutel. The two newer plants, he told the council, provide a total of about six million gallons per day, and the city’s peak demand on the hottest day of summer is about

5.5 million gallons in a 24-hour period.

The east side treatment plant, said Kothenbeutel, is in very bad shape, comprised of concrete, tanks and pipes. Its roof, he said, is shot.

In her presentation, Ryan said it would cost an estimated \$2 million to repair and upgrade and up to \$375,000 to demolish, including clean-up costs. Repurposing the building was explored, but all options are unfeasible, she noted.

Council member Mike Chisum said he would like to see

a possible sale of the facility to a private buyer. Why be in a hurry to raze it?, he asked. The city, Ryan said, intends to keep the land on which the plant sits. If the plant were to be sold, its new owner would almost certainly have to demolish it anyway as it would be virtually useless for any other use, making its purchase futile, Ryan noted.

The council voted unanimously to pursue taking bids for a demolition, with the proviso it could be placed on the market for a certain amount of time after the bids come in.

\$3,000 donated to fire, police departments

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell police and fire departments now have \$1,500 each to add to their equipment funds, thanks to a donation from Country Financial of Sartell.

At the Sept. 23 City Council meeting, three representatives of Country Financial presented a check for \$3,000 to the equipment funds, half for the police department, half for the fire department.

Accepting the donation at the council meeting were Sartell Police Chief Jim Hughes

and Fire Chief Jim Sattler.

“I don’t think folks thank you enough for what you do,” said Country Financial representative Chip Schwartztraub, the company’s manager. He presented the check, along with Country Financial employees Scott Schmitz and Leah McGwire.

The donation was part of the company’s Operation Helping Heroes program, which gives funds to public-safety agencies and other good causes in area cities. The Sartell branch of Country Financial, on Troop Drive, offers insurance and financial services to customers.

City partners with ski club

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell’s Public Works Department will join a partnership to give a boost to the Sartell Nordic Ski Club for trail grooming.

The City Council approved the partnership at its Sept. 23 meeting, which was attended by many parents of ski-club participants.

The Sartell-Cathedral Nordic Ski Team won the state championship in February this year at Biwabik, beating back Forest

Lake for the top trophy.

The ski club boosters asked the council if its public works department would be willing to groom the 1-kilometer ski trail that runs through the wooded area near the old Sartell High School.

Sartell Public Works Director John Kothenbeutel said the department does have a trail groomer but that he could not guarantee workers would have time to keep the trail groomed on a regular basis, especially when they are busy with snow removal tasks and plowing at

heavy snow times.

Earlier, the ski club met with school officials, and it was agreed the school district would help with work on the trail, including snow-making. The ski club succeeded in raising \$20,000 for trail maintenance and work, including hook-ups for electricity and water.

The council agreed unanimously to give the partnership a try for one year, with grooming done whenever possible. After a year, the partnership will be reviewed, the council agreed.

City to contract with Sourcewell for planning

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleaders.com

The city of Sartell will contract for city planning and other related services with a consultant company named Sourcewell, based in Staples.

The City Council agreed unanimously on that decision at its Sept. 23 meeting.

Sourcewell helps governmental units in its customer cities, counties and townships to do such tasks as land-use planning, development assistance and applications, zoning administration, comprehensive planning, staff meetings, ordinances, specialized plans or studies, permit review, legal notifications and violation en-

forcement.

Cities, including Sartell, can receive Sourcewell’s services and advice only when needed. There is no long-term commitment, and Sartell will use the service for perhaps up to a year. Sourcewell charges \$60 per hour.

Other cities who contract with the company include Lit-

tle Falls, Fergus Falls, Osakis, Nisswa, Genola, Staples, Frazee and more.

A major reason why Sartell decided to contract, at least for a time, with Sourcewell, is because Sartell’s longtime city planner/developer Anita Archambeau resigned this past summer to move to Tennessee. When she moved, city staff

and council quickly realized she took her complex skills, knowledge and talent with her.

“We had Anita here for 19 years, and she did an amazing job,” Mayor Ryan Fitzthum told the council. “We interviewed some others to try to fill those big shoes, but it seemed like the shoes got bigger and bigger to fill.”

Blotter

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

Sept. 18

10:20 p.m. Traffic stop. Hwy.15. An officer stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation. An individual in the vehicle was in violation of a domestic abuse no-contact order from the court and another individual gave the officer a false name. The individual in violation of the court order was arrested and the individual who gave the false name was cited for the infraction. The driver was warned for the equipment violation.

Sept. 19

4:50 p.m. Pursuit. CR 1. An officer pursued a vehicle while attempting to stop the vehicle for its headlights being out. The vehicle crashed and the driver fled on foot from the area. The vehicle was reported as stolen. The driver was located and taken into custody. The driver was arrested and cited for fleeing, reckless driving, possession of stolen property and giving a false name to officers.

Sept. 20

8:55 a.m. Shoplifting. CR 120. An officer, working with loss prevention from a business, stopped an individual. After an investigation, the individual, the loss prevention person and the officer returned to the store where the individual was trespassed from the property.

Sept. 21

1:10 p.m. Traffic Stop. Le Sauk Drive. An officer stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation and the rear hatch being partially open. There was an arrest warrant for the driver. The individual was transported to Stearns County Jail.

Sept. 22

3:20 a.m. Intoxicated person. First Street NE. Someone reported an intoxicated person who appeared lost. The officer located the individual and talked with them. It was determined the safest thing for that individual was for them to go to the hospital for the evening. Mayo arrived and transported the individual.

Sept. 23

1:35 a.m. Disorderly conduct. Hi Vue Drive. Officers were dispatched to a residence where an intoxicated individual was causing problems for family members and neighbors. After repeated warnings the individual was arrested for disorderly conduct and transported to Stearns County Jail.

Sept. 24

8:15 a.m. Driving complaint. 2½ Street N. An officer was dispatched to a call regarding a vehicle driving erratically. Officers spoke with the driver after it arrived at Sartell High School. The driver was warned about the driving conduct.

Sept. 25

7:30 p.m. Domestic. Amber Avenue S. A loud argument was reported at a residence. The officers spoke with both parties and it was determined no threats or violence had taken place. One of the residents agreed the best course of action was to leave for the evening.

Sept. 26

1:30 a.m. Traffic stop. Eighth Avenue S. An officer stopped a vehicle for equipment violations and noticed a shotgun shell in the vehicle. The driver was an individual not allowed possession of ammunition and was taken into custody for the infraction. The driver was transported to Stearns County Jail.

Sept. 27

8:30 a.m. Warrant. CR 120. An officer stopped an individual on a bike who road through a stop light. Talking with the individu-

al, the individual told the officer they had a warrant out of Wisconsin. The individual was also in possession of hypodermic needles and other drug paraphernalia. The individual was cited for the needles, paraphernalia and failing to obey a traffic signal. The individual was arrested for the warrant and transported to Stearns County Jail.

Sept. 28

10:45 p.m. DWI. CR 1. A citizen reported a driving complaint about a vehicle. Officers located the vehicle and witnessed driving infractions. Stopping the vehicle, the officer noticed signs of impairment. The driver failed the field sobriety tests and was arrested for DWI. The driver was transported to Stearns County Jail.

Sept. 29

3:30 p.m. Shoplifting. DR 120. A business reported a cooperative shoplifter. The officers discovered the individual in question had multiple warrants for their arrest. The officers took the individual into custody for the warrants and cited them for the theft. Officers transported the person to Stearns County Jail.

Sept. 30

10:35 p.m. Domestic. Fifth Street N. Officers were notified of a domestic situation that happened in Sartell from Stearns County deputies at St. Cloud Hospital. Officers met with the victim at the hospital and then with the suspect at the location of the incident in Sartell. Officers took the individual into custody and transported to Stearns County Jail.

Oct. 1

9:05 a.m. Suspicious vehicle. Riverside Avenue N. An officer saw a suspicious vehicle parked in a park. Upon further investigation the officer found two sleeping individuals in the vehicle. The officer warned the two individuals about park hours and sleeping in vehicles. The individuals left the park.

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Interest in SaveStations expands far and wide

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleaders.com

Interest in AED SaveStations is growing by leaps and bounds, and the Sartell City Council members are now expressing a keen interest in setting up some of them.

At the Aug. 26 council meeting, two SaveStation experts – Rich Feneis of Sartell and Joel Vogel of St. Joseph – gave a presentation about the stations. Previously, the two men had met with Sartell City Planner Nate Keller and a member of the Sartell Chamber of Commerce.

After the presentation, council members said they are definitely in favor of checking further into SaveStations and where in the city they could be placed. Mayor Ryan Fitzthum said it would be good to have some placed in parks and outside the new fire-police facility. Sartell city staff will apply for grants to CentraCare in hopes of maybe helping fund some stations.

An AED SaveStation is a place – usually outdoors -- where an automatic external

defibrillator (AED) is installed, inside of a temperature-controlled box. Any member of the public has access to the AED at an AED SaveStation when a sudden cardiac arrest occurs. If that crisis should happen, a person with the victim should call 911 immediately and then that person (or someone else) should begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation right away. Someone at the scene could rush to the nearest SaveStation to grab its AED and return to the scene of the medical crisis where it can be used to “shock” the victim’s heart into beating again. Hopefully, though, emergency medical technicians will arrive in time to use their own AED.

The SaveStation can also be programmed with up to 120 phone numbers to make automatic phone calls to notify neighborhood volunteers there is an emergency because someone just opened the panel of the SaveStation. The calls are triggered as soon as the front panel of the station is opened. Opening the panel also causes the machine to take an instant

photo of the person opening it.



photo by Dennis Dalman

Joel Vogel of St. Joseph (right) and Rich Feneis of Sartell give a presentation on AED SaveStations. This photo was taken during a program in July in St. Joseph. Next to Feneis in the background is a wall-mounted SaveStation at the St. Joseph Government Center.

and Feneis, Central Minnesota is becoming the place for installation of the stations. In just the last few months, one was installed at the Pine Point area in north Sartell (where Feneis lives), two in the St. Cloud area and five in St. Joseph. Four of the latter were purchased by St. Joseph resident Audrey Twit in memory of her late husband, Ken, a pharmacist and city-council member who died of a heart attack.

Vogel, who is a survivor of a heart attack, became very involved in the issue of heart health with an organization called Mended Hearts. Vogel, who happens to be one of Feneis’s golfing buddies, inspired Feneis to join an effort to get SaveStations in the area. In just the past year, they have had remarkable success, with people and organizations far and wide expressing interest – from as far away as Naples, Florida. About six weeks ago, KARE-TV broadcast a feature about the SaveStations in St. Joseph, including an interview with a St. Cloud woman, Jerry Hess, who saved the life of her husband, Jerry, by using an AED on him after he collapsed from sudden cardiac arrest.

A few weeks ago, when Feneis visited his home away from home, Naples, Florida, he met with a member of the American Heart Association to inform her about the stations. He showed the KARE video to her and, wide-eyed, she blurted out that she’d seen the same video posted on an American Heart Association website, placed there by someone who’d seen the video on a Chicago TV station.

Someone from the Waite Park Moose Lodge also saw the video and called Feneis, a

member of that lodge, to say the Moose Lodge wants to donate money for a SaveStation to be installed right outside the lodge.

Just recently, Cold Spring applied for a grant to get a SaveStation, and the city of Brooten expressed interest in installing four SaveStations.

Feneis said many people also read stories about SaveStations in the St. Joseph and Sartell Newsleader newspapers and contacted him or Vogel about how to go about getting them, including grants given by the CentraCare Take Heart organization, which also offers free seminars on how to perform CPR.

Vogel told the Sartell City Council he and Feneis have talked with all police chiefs in the area, including Sartell Chief Jim Hughes, as well as many individuals, organizations and businesses interested in donating money. As part of SaveStation outreach and funding, Feneis started a nonprofit organization called Advocates for Health. The goal is to get at least 50 of the stations in Central Minnesota during the coming year, and both men are brimming with confidence that goal can be attained or exceeded. The local sheriffs – Steve Soyka of Stearns and Troy Heck of Benton – are also supportive and have signed on to help the effort.

Vogel and Feneis set up a tent in various places so residents can learn how an AED works and more information about it and how and where to receive free CPR training.

A recent ambitious project involved finding the locations of all AEDs in Central Minnesota, the overwhelming number of them indoor machines

inaccessible to people during after-business hours. Molly Young, a College of St. Benedict senior, made visits to all of the places where AEDs were located – a total of 481 of them at various places. Young then drew up an inventory list. Feneis said many of the machines had dead batteries or needed new chest pads.

The next step, after the inventory project, will be taken by the St. Cloud-based GeoComm, a geographic information-systems technology company. It will place all of the AED locations on maps that can be used as overlays by dispatching units throughout Central Minnesota. That way, if a 911 call about a cardiac arrest is received, the dispatcher can tell the caller precisely where the nearest AED machine is located. That same information will be placed on city websites and on phone applications.

Many of the people at the places contacted that have indoor-only AEDs said they are now considering having a SaveStation outside of their schools, churches or places of business.

A standard AED costs close to \$3,000, but there are additional expenses in acquiring a SaveStation and installing it in the station – either mounted on a wall or installed on a stand-alone “tower” that is about 5 feet tall.

Those involved in the AED effort, thanks to the spearheading efforts of Feneis and Vogel, are CentraCare’s Take Heart, local police and sheriff departments, Mended Hearts, the Greater St. Cloud Safety Coalition, the Stearns County Health and Safety Foundation, and Advocates for Health.

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Community Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304., e-mail it to news@thenewsleaders.com. Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.

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

United Way of Central Minnesota Midnight Run 5K, 8 p.m., Blackbery Ridge Golf Course. Register at unitedwayhelps.org/mid-nightrun.

Saturday, Oct. 5
Walk to Support Building Bri’s Lodge, 9 a.m. family activities, 10 a.m. ceremony, 10:30 walk, Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell.

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

Sartell Birthday Party, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell. Trolley tours at 11 a.m. and noon, model train display, classic car show, Riverside Jazz Band, children’s activities, door prizes and refreshments. Oct. 5 marks the 112th anniversary of the founding of Sartell.

Sunday, Oct. 6
Breakfast with the St. Stephen Firefighters, 8:30 a.m.-noon, St. Stephen Parish Hall, 103 CR 2.

Monday, Oct. 7
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

Sartell Farmers Market, 3-6: p.m., Bernick’s Arena parking lot, 1109 First St. S., Sartell, marketmon-day.org.

Sartell Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., upstairs of Blue Line Sports Bar andGrill, 1101 Second St. S., Sartell. 320-267-2591.

Sartell Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

Sartell-St. Stephen school levy informational meeting, 7 p.m., Oak Ridge Elementary School, 1111 27th St. N., Sartell.

Tuesday, Oct. 8
Sartell Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., Waters Church, 1227 Pinecone Road. 320-258.6061. info@sartellchamber.com.

Substance-Free Coalition on vaping, 6 p.m., Sartell Middle School, 627 Third Ave. N. Speaker is Summer Hagy from the American Health Association.

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

National Alliance on Mental

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

Wednesday, Oct. 9
Breakfast Club, 9 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. Free for members, nominal fee for nonmembers.

Sartell High School Community Tour, 6-7 p.m., Sartell High School, 3101 Pinecone Road N.

Sartell-St. Stephen school levy informational meeting, 7 p.m., Sartell High School, 3101 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

Thursday, Oct. 10
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

Sartell Fire Department Open House, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Fire hall, 220 Fourth Ave. S.

Friday, Oct. 11
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

Saturday, Oct. 12
St. Stephen Fire Department Open House, 10 a.m.-noon, St. Stephen Fire & Rescue Station, 2 Sixth

Ave. SE.

Pathways 4 Youth Now that you Know live fundraiser, noon-5 p.m., Division Street across from Gilleland Chevrolet, St. Cloud. pathways4youthmn.org.

Monday, Oct. 14
Sartell Farmers Market, 3-6: p.m., Bernick’s Arena parking lot, 1109 First St. S., Sartell, marketmon-day.org.

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

Brockway Township Board, 7:30 p.m., Township Hall, 43710 85th Ave. N.

Tuesday, Oct. 15
Memory Writers group develops topics and turn in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.

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

Dementia Friends information session, 1-2 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell. Learn what dementia is, what it’s like to live with the disease and communicate with people who have dementia.

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

Wednesday, Oct. 16
SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S., Sartell.

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

Thursday, Oct. 17
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.

American Legion-Sartell, open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. john.denney@charter.net.

MOPS, Mothers of Preschoolers monthly social, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

Friday, Oct. 18
Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbenton-history.org.

St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. stcloudsingles.net.

Saturday, Oct. 19
Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell. Free.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 748 (SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN) STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 748 (Sartell-St. Stephen), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019, for the purpose of voting on the following question:

Yes

No

Shall the school district’s existing referendum revenue authorization be revoked and the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 748 be approved?

BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

	Property value	Pay 2020 Revoked Authority	Pay 2020 Proposed New Authority	Pay 2020 Net Change
Residential, Homesteads, Apartments, and Commercial Industrial Property	50,000	-2.12	39.27	37.15
	75,000	-3.18	58.91	55.73
	100,000	-4.24	78.54	74.3
	125,000	-5.3	98.18	92.88
	150,000	-6.36	117.81	111.45
	175,000	-7.42	137.45	130.03
	200,000	-8.48	157.08	148.6
	225,000	-9.54	176.72	167.18
	250,000	-10.6	196.35	185.75
	275,000	-11.66	215.99	204.33
	300,000	-12.72	235.62	222.9
	325,000	-13.78	255.26	241.48
	350,000	-14.84	274.89	260.05
	375,000	-15.9	294.53	278.63
	400,000	-16.96	314.16	297.2
	425,000	-18.02	333.8	315.78
	450,000	-19.08	353.43	334.35
	475,000	-20.14	373.07	352.93
	500,000	-21.2	392.7	371.5

COMBINED POLLING PLACE: Sartell City Hall
125 Pinecone Road N.
Sartell, Minnesota 56377

This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 748 located in the City of Sartell, Precincts 1, 3 and 4 and Le Sauk Township in Stearns County, Minnesota; and the City of Sartell, Precinct 2; Benton County, Minnesota.

COMBINED POLLING PLACE: Celebration Lutheran Church
1500 Pinecone Road N.
Sartell, Minnesota 56377

This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 748 located in the City of Sartell, Precincts 5, 6 and 7; Stearns County, Minnesota.

COMBINED POLLING PLACE: St. Stephen City Hall
2 Sixth Ave. SE
St. Stephen, Minnesota 56375

This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 748 located in the City of St. Stephen; and St. Wendel, East Brockway and West Brockway Townships; Stearns County, Minnesota.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the combined polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will be opened at 7 a.m. and will close at 8 p.m., on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on election day.

Dated: July 15, 2019.

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/Pamela Raden
School District Clerk

Independent School District No. 748
(Sartell-St. Stephen)
State of Minnesota

Publish: Oct. 4, 18 & Nov. 1, 2019

Opinion

Our View

Vaping is public health crisis for young people

Back in 1975, Minnesota was the first state to enact a Clean Indoor Air Act. Although the act did not eliminate smoking in public settings, it did require the creation of “Smoking Permitted” and “No Smoking Areas,” it was still a groundbreaking law at the time. Thirty years later, the Freedom to Breathe Act banned smoking in indoor public spaces and workplaces, including bars and restaurants.

It’s time again for Minnesota to take bold action and ban the sale of vaping products until the Food and Drug Administration or the Centers for Disease Control have studied the potential dangers. Let’s not follow the path that finally led to tobacco regulations after millions of people died from cancer caused by smoking. Vaping delivers deadly, addictive chemicals just as dangerous as tobacco.

Other states and the federal government are taking limited action.

Massachusetts announced a four-month ban on the sale of all vaping products; Walmart said it would stop selling all e-cigarettes and the FDA announced it had opened a criminal inquiry into the supply chain of vaping products and devices.

In the weeks before that, New York and Michigan imposed bans on sales of flavored products and the Trump administration said it would propose a nationwide ban on most flavored e-cigarette products, including mint and menthol.

The use of e-cigarettes is a public health crisis with use among teenagers and young adults particularly alarming.

As of last week, the CDC reported 805 cases of lung injury associated with vaping. Use among young people, especially males, is significant.

The CDC recorded age and sex data on 373 of those 805 cases. Nearly three-fourths are males and two thirds are 18 to 34. While the products are illegal in Minnesota and most states for people younger than 18, the CDC found that 16 percent of injuries are in that age group with 38 percent occurring in people under age 21.

In addition to the injuries, 17 deaths connected to vaping have been reported, including one in Minnesota.

While cigarette use among teenagers decreased, vaping is on the rise. In 2011, 16 percent of high schoolers reporting smoking in the last month. By 2019 smoking dropped to 6 percent. Meanwhile, vaping has increased from 2 percent to 28 percent in the same time.

A study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse found the increase in vaping last year was “the largest ever recorded for any substance in the 44 years” that it has tracked adolescent drug use.

You can learn more about the dangers of vaping at a program sponsored by the Sartell-St. Stephen school district’s Substance-Free Coalition. A speaker from the American Heart Association will lead the discussion at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 8 at Sartell Middle School.

Minnesota has taken some small steps. The Legislature passed a law last session that now includes vaping in the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act, limiting places where vaping is legal.

Other proposals include raising the age for legal sale for tobacco and vaping products from 18 to 21 and banning the sale of flavored vaping products.

Bolder action is needed. The FDA thoroughly tests drugs and other products before releasing them for widespread sale and use.

The same strict process should be used for this dangerous product. Do the research now but in the meantime, let’s not experiment with the state’s teenagers.

Extreme positions, rhetoric don’t solve issues

Mike Knaak

Editor



plete with a tricorn hat. But instead of taking aim with a musket, he’s ready to shoot with an assault rifle. That battlefield weapon would have really mowed down the Redcoats.

During the last legislative session, the DFL-controlled state House of Representatives passed two gun-safety actions, but the Republican-controlled Senate opposed them. The first proposal would have expanded background checks to private gun sales. Exceptions would be made for firearm transfers to an immediate family member, transfers while hunting, at a shooting competition or at a gun range.

The second would have allowed law enforcement to remove a person’s firearms if they are believed to pose a danger to themselves or others.

That failed attempt to enact widely supported gun-safety measures riled up Minnesota Gun Rights and they even attacked the Republican leaders who blocked Senate action.

From the email:



Let Siemens family keep pet chickens

Dennis Dalman

Reporter



before the City Council, both times pleading to be allowed to keep their pet birds – the first time Aug. 12, the second time Sept. 9. They were allowed to present their views during the Open Forum segment of the council meeting when people can speak on an issue or concern for up to three minutes. Under the rules, the council members are not permitted to discuss anything brought up during Open Forum sessions, at least not during that particular meeting.

The Siemenses waited for a response one way or another from the council. None was forthcoming. Then the Siemenses requested to be added to the regular council agenda, where they and others could speak and share accurate knowledge. That request was nixed at the Sept. 23 meeting.

Do council members think allowing for some pet chickens would set off a cackling commotion of chickens here, there and everywhere?

The Siemenses have received “overwhelming” support from people who read about the pet chickens in two Newsleader City Council stories. They get constant positive comments from school students, teach-

“They know the ONLY reason gun-grabbers in St. Paul were unable to pass ‘Universal Gun Registration’ and ‘Red Flag Gun Seizure’ legislation this past session in St. Paul is because of the ferocious defense of our freedoms that the members of Minnesota Gun Rights maintained.

“But with our Senate Republican leadership team under Majority Leader Paul Gazelka being perhaps the weakest in the country (if not the very weakest) gun-grabbers like Senator Ron Latz and his pals are licking their chops – convinced next year will be their time to ram ‘Red Flag Gun Seizure’ legislation into law.”

We need a serious debate on gun safety. Proposals include banning battlefield weapons and high-capacity magazines, red flag laws and universal background checks.

The Minnesota Gun Rights group’s rhetoric falls far outside a serious, urgent debate with their handgun giveaway and assault-rifle toting minuteman.

ers, coaches, neighbors and dozens of parents at football games.

The Siemenses told the council twice they would be more than willing to follow any city-imposed rules and regulations regarding their birds.

The pets are well-kept, clean, friendly to visitors and love the family, especially the two children, who now miss them very much. On some weekends, they all go to Grove City to visit their feathered friends.

Some weeks back, the Siemenses and supporters spent many hours visiting neighborhoods in Sartell, knocking on doors and asking people how they feel about chickens in the city limits. They found overwhelming support, with only one person of 96 residents definitely opposed.

“The council members may not be looking into this issue, but the community sure is,” said Molly, adding her family quickly discovered because of their plight that Sartell is filled with good people who love animals.

It is pitiful to see this good family have to beg for its pet birds. Dear readers, please write or call council members and urge them to put “chickens” on the agenda for an upcoming meeting discussion. Tell council members to please have a heart and give ‘em a break!

Letters to the Editor

School levy is a good investment

John Tragiai, Sartell

For those who have lived in this community for the past 15 years like us, this isn’t the first time we’ve heard the words school levy. In fact, there have been multiple levy votes while we’ve called Sartell home. As my wife and I near the end of our three children completing their education in this district, our focus has switched from supporting the levies because our children attend school here to supporting the levies because it is a good real estate investment.

As someone that has been investing in real estate for over 20 years, the old saying “Location, Location, Location” couldn’t be truer. But what makes a good location? Is it lakeshore living? Is it the skyline from your top floor condo? Is it the famous stores that are within walking distance from your front door? The last time I checked, Sartell has none of these, so why would people actually choose to live here? It’s simple, our “Location” is our schools, teachers and leaders!

As a realtor, I hear it all the time “We like Sartell because of the school district.”“We know the taxes might be a little higher, but they’ve got better schools.” “We want to stay in the Sartell school district because of our kids.”

Yes, we’ve got a great com-

munity with many benefits, but people buy real estate in Sartell because of our schools. So how does supporting the levy equal a good real estate investment?

1. 26 percent of home buyers consider the quality of schools when looking for a new home.

2. People under 36 form the largest group of new home buyers and almost half have at least one child at home and say school districts play a big role in buying decisions.

3. Home values inside top-rated school districts were 49 percent higher than the national median home price.

Our school district is ranked No. 10 in the state of Minnesota and is the No. 1 school district outside of the metro area. I encourage you to continue to invest in Sartell. This is OUR location!

School district money has been well spent

Nate McClellan, Sartell

Should I vote YES and give more money to Sartell schools? In the 20 years I’ve lived here, the district has scored much higher on both reading and math achievement and the yearly progress scores have outpaced state averages. Sartell’s four-year graduation rate of 98.19 percent places Sartell High School in the state’s top 5 percent for graduation rates. Clearly the district has performed.

I’ve heard arguments that

the new High School is “too excessive and unnecessary....the district is wasting money....I never grew up with a school like that and I turned out fine.” Well, I didn’t grow up with a school like the new Sartell High School either. However, my school was better than my parents’ and theirs was better than the farm school house of my grandparents’. Schools evolve – thank goodness! The technology and “excess” some have complained about allow our children to dream differently. Many of tomorrow’s jobs haven’t been invented yet. The skills our children learn and how they apply them needs to change and help those dreams become reachable.

I also don’t believe the district planned poorly or spent unwisely. To date, Sartell schools have provided excellent programming and performance despite ranking 324 out of 330 for Minnesota school districts in overall school funding per pupil. Even if the levy passes, our district would still be below the state average by 15 percent. I wonder what the community’s view of the school would be if our performance was below average or ranked as low as 324 out of 330? Let’s not find out.

Will a YES vote benefit those without school children? According to the National Bureau of Economic Research there is a definite correlation between school expenditures and home values in any given neighborhood. For every dollar spent on

public schools, home values increased by \$20. These findings indicate additional school expenditures may benefit everyone in the community, whether or not residents have children in school. These home values increase even more considerably if the district is made up of high-performing schools.

Please vote YES, I will.

Pass levy to maintain quality schools

Laura Mackenthun, Sartell

As a Sartell resident, a parent of two Sartell High School graduates and one current Sartell High School student, and someone who has spent 30 years working in public schools, I encourage you to support the Sartell-St. Stephen school district levy on Nov. 5.

Sartell schools have a well-deserved reputation for providing outstanding opportunities and support to students. Throughout the years, our children have had caring and supportive teachers, have been challenged academically, have participated in activities and athletics, and have done so in appropriate and well-maintained facilities.

Thank you to voters who supported the current and future needs of the district by supporting a bond issue in 2016 which addressed facility needs within the district by building a new high school

and remodeling other buildings. At the time, the Board of Education responsibly made the choice to not ask for a levy at the same time as the levy money would not be needed until buildings were completed and occupied, thereby providing a savings to residents.

The Sartell Board of Education has earned voters’ trust by clearly stating the 2016 bond vote would be followed by a levy vote, listening to the community by cutting \$1.3 million in response to a failed levy, leveraging additional state funding to decrease the levy request amount, and sharing what will happen if the Nov. 5 levy fails.

Passage of the levy will allow the district to maintain class size, support the operations of six buildings, and maintain and grow current PreK-12 offerings. The cost of operating an additional site is a very real cost and was planned for by the district in the intended levy at the time of the bond vote. Providing opportunities for students directly impacts those students’ futures.

I’m proud to be a resident of Sartell and a parent of Sartell students. I’ve seen the benefits of an education provided by Sartell schools in our own children and others. Providing these opportunities for current and future students is our responsibility as a community.

I encourage you to join me in voting Yes on Nov. 5.

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Pie

from front page

do that, that is pretty outstanding.”

The pie throwing on Sept. 20 ended a week of homecoming events at the school, which serves 688 students in kindergarten through fourth grade.

Students raised \$26,000 for the PTO to fund activities such as field trips and buy extra classroom materials. For safety reasons, students don't go door-to-door but ask for donations from friends and families.

Nathan is the son of Staci and Christopher Boesen.

Landon is the son of Ashley Joslin and Steven Fish.

The Friday assembly to announce the top fundraisers has been a school tradition since 2012. Nelson wasn't the only person plastered with a pie. A student from each grade who was selected by random drawing also won a chance to throw a pie at a staff member of their choice.

It's something the kids look forward to every year,” Heathcote said. “It builds community and reminds kids that they matter, that they are important, and if we can work together, we can achieve great things. By raising money, we're helping everyone succeed at Pine Meadow.”

Vaping

from front page

Peterson would like to see more educational awareness, limitations on advertising and making them less accessible.

“Is it a gateway drug? We don't know,” Peterson said. “But we shouldn't have to wait 10-15 years to find out its bad.”

Peterson says he's available to help parents who suspect their child is vaping and want to get them to stop. Parents can contact him through the high school or by email.

“Don't wait for the crisis point,” he said.

City pushes ‘pause’ for R-5 PUD zoning

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A moratorium of up to one year on certain developments in Sartell is now in effect.

At its Sept. 23 meeting, the Sartell City Council, on recommendation from city staff, voted unanimously to impose an interim ordinance (temporary moratorium) on developments within the city's current R-5 Planned-Unit Development zones.

Currently, the R-5 PUD zones allow for a wide variety of developments that include single-family homes, multi-family projects, com-

mercial and institutional properties. Those definitions, city staff decided, are too broad and can lead to inconsistencies or incompatible developments.

Projects already approved will be allowed to continue in R-5 PUD areas during the interim ordinance.

The moratorium will allow the city staff and council time to fine-tune definitions for land uses, with help from Sourcewell, a planning consultant agency Sartell has hired part-time.

The council agreed the pause for R-5 PUD uses is a very good idea.

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