

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Nov. 15, 2019
 Volume 24, Issue 22
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Town Crier

Winter market this Saturday

Sartell Farmers Winter Market will be held from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, inside Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Time to get ready for Thanksgiving. Come find great treats, caramel corn, salsa, honey, barbecue sauce and many canned goods. In addition, you can begin your gift shopping with the many great hand-crafted gift ideas created by our vendors.

RLC to host craft sale Nov. 16

A 2019 Holiday Craft Sale will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16 at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph. More than 20 booths, bake sale, door prizes, treats and light lunch will be available. Some vendors are cash only. For more information, call 320-363-4232 or lwallin@gmail.com.

Youngest woman trader at the NYSE to Speak at SJU

Body Copy: The Eugene J. McCarthy Center for Public Policy and Civic Engagement invites all to the Mark Kennedy Frontiers of Freedom Lecture at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18, in the Stephen B. Humphrey Theater at St. John's University. This year's keynote will be given by Lauren Simmons, vice president of Investment Risk at CTRL USA, a private investment company. Her speech, entitled "The Power of Being the Other in the Room," is free and open to the public. In 2017, Simmons made history at 23 years old, becoming the youngest female and the second-ever African American woman to work as a trader at the New York Stock Exchange in 225 years.

Historical Society hosts holiday market

A holiday market, sponsored by the Sartell Historical Society, will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, in the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. The event will feature crafts, gifts, re-gifting items and many vendors. Complimentary coffee, cider and treats will also be available.

INSERTS:
Cornerstone Buffet
Country Manor



photo by Mike Knaak

Middle school students salute veterans

Lynn Hanson and her sons, Samuel (left) and Joseph, receive Quilts of Valor during Sartell Middle School's Veterans Day program. Samuel is a 2017 Sartell High School graduate and Joseph graduated in 2019. They are members of the Army National Guard.

School levy passes with clearer message

by Mike Knaak
 editor@thenewsleaders.com

Clear communication about the plan and more robust community support apparently turned around last year's rejection of a school district operating levy into an approval in a Nov. 5 special election.

Sartell-St. Stephen school district's voters approved an operating levy that will raise \$1.77 million for 10 years.

There were 3,047 yes votes

and 2,276 no votes – a 57 percent approval.

A similar measure failed a year ago with 60 percent of voters rejecting the levy.

Turnout this year was lower than last year's vote during the general election. In 2018, 8,154 votes were cast compared with this year's tally of 5,323. In 2016, when district voters approved a bond for a new high school, 4,315 votes were cast.

"After the referendum failed, the first thing we did

was we held community sessions," board chair Jason Nies said. "We heard loud(ly) and clear(ly) that our message wasn't clear enough about why we needed the money. This time around we made a better effort at holding community sessions and the Vote Yes committee made a huge difference. It was a good grassroots effort.

"We tried to be even more transparent," Nies said. "We made sure everyone had the information to go out and

vote."

The operational levy is part of a multi-year strategic plan that includes funding the new high school, remodeling the old high school to serve as a middle school, converting the current middle school for grades three through five and reconfiguring the grades in the two elementary buildings starting next fall.

The approved levy will support operating a total of

Levy • page 2

'Veteran' actor tries her hand at directing

by Mike Knaak
 editor@thenewsleaders.com

When Grace Radeke debuted on a theater stage 10 years ago, it was as dancing cutlery. At age 7, she played a fork in GREAT Theatre's production of "Beauty and the Beast."

Now 10 years later, the Sartell junior is directing other young actors in "The Rainbow Fish Musical," opening Saturday, Nov. 16.

Grace decided to explore directing because of experiences she's had as an actor.

"I have known a lot of really great directors at school and

here," Grace said last week following a rehearsal. "I've looked up to them a lot. They are amazing people. I have a lot of opinions on how things should be done. After criticizing a show, mom said 'you should direct.'"

"The Rainbow Fish Musical," based on a popular children's book, features 14 actors, ages 8-17.

Directing, Grace says, is "great. I thought I wouldn't like it as much as I do. I like working with kids. I was worried I wouldn't know how to interact with them. I'm an animated person and that works

Actor • page 2



photo by Mike Knaak

Director Grace Radeke talks with "The Rainbow Fish Musical" actors Noah Lundy and Bayley Schneider during rehearsal. Mentor Kendra Norton Dando (far left) observes.

BLACK FRIDAY GIFT CERTIFICATE SALE

Take advantage of the spirit of Black Friday, and buy a \$100 Fisher's Club gift card between Midnight and 9PM on Friday, November 22nd, to receive an additional \$35 gift card FOR FREE!

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Levy**from front page**

six buildings (including the District Service Center) when the old high school-to-middle school remodeling is complete next year. Operations expenses include custodians, food service, heating/cooling and maintenance.

The new high school is just short of 300,000 square feet. It costs about \$3.50-\$4 per square foot to operate a building. The added cost because of an additional building is between \$1 million and \$1.2 million annually.

The levy money will also support pre-K through grade 12 academic programming and extra-curricular programming as well as helping the district hit its class-size targets.

The approved levy will add \$74.30 for each \$100,000 of a property's taxable market value. For example, the owners of a \$250,000 home will pay an additional \$185.75 in property taxes. Operating levies do not tax agricultural land.

Sartell-St. Stephen was one of 44 Minnesota school districts seeking operating levies on Nov. 5. All but seven of them passed, according to the Minnesota School Boards Association.

In 37 districts, voters were asked to approve bonds to pay for new schools or improvements to existing buildings. Voters approved 24 of those measures, including Sauk Rapids-Rice district voters. A \$37.13-million bond to build a new Pleasantview Elementary School passed 3,054 yes to 1,222 no votes.

The new tax money will be available for the next school year.

"We're going to be methodical about where to put the dollars," Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert said.

"We thank the voters for coming through with the results," Schwiebert said. "We are going to be able to do the kind of programs the district wanted us to do all along. We're very pleased with patrons supporting us in this. We pledge to do as good as possible."



photo by Mike Knaak

Grace Radeke compares notes with mentor Kenda Norton Dando during rehearsal.

Actor**from front page**

with kids. They are very energizing. If I've had a terrible day at school I come here and it lights up my day."

For this production, GREAT Theatre teamed mentors with young leaders for seven behind-the-scenes roles including director, choreographer and designer.

Grace's mentor is Kendra Norton Dando, who is also GREAT's education director.

The mentoring experience is a first for the theater company.

"We wondered what can we offer high school students that isn't available elsewhere," Norton Dando said of the mentoring plan. "Kids are creative and have stories to tell. We respect them and let them show their talents. As human beings we all have things to say."

Grace and Norton Dando collaborate constantly. During rehearsal, they sit side-by-side and share observations.

"We meet before rehearsal to talk about ideas for the story, how to make fun rehears-

als," said Dando Norton, who has taught high school theater for 15 years.

Grace's steps to stage began when her mother asked if she wanted to be in a play.

"She thought it would be good for me," Grace said. "We went to 'Beauty and the Beast' auditions. I didn't have any idea what I was going to be doing. I had this vision of only me on stage as a dancing fork. I was only in two scenes. I had the idea theater is a lot of sitting."

A few years later, she earned a role in "Annie" and she's also played Fiona in "Shrek" and Happy in "Snow White."

Musicals are her favorites and she's planning a career in theater or music education.

In addition to her mother, her grandmother has encouraged her theatrical passion. Grace is a junior at Sartell High School and lives in Sartell with her parents, Katie and Paul, and sister, Ava.

"The Rainbow Fish Musical" will be presented at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, and Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Helgeson Learning Lab Theatre, 710 Sundial Drive, Waite Park.

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

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Blotter

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

Oct. 30

6:55 pm. Domestic abuse order violation. Seventh Avenue S. Officers were dispatched to a possible violation of a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order. Officers identified the parties involved and met with both, who were together, at the residence. The officers took one person into custody for violating the order and transported him to the Stearns County Jail.

Oct. 31

2:40 p.m. Stolen vehicle recovered. Second Street S. An officer witnessed a driver conduct a U-turn. The officer followed the vehicle and stopped it at a local business. The officer discovered the vehicle was stolen out of St. Cloud. The driver of the vehicle was also discovered to not have

a valid license but did have an active warrant for his arrest. The driver was arrested for the warrant and the stolen vehicle.

Nov. 1

9:40 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 1. An officer saw a vehicle with expired registration. Stopping the vehicle, the officer discovered the driver did not have a valid license. The officer allowed the driver to pull into a parking lot and cited the driver for not having a valid license and gave a verbal warning for the expired registration.

Nov. 2

3 p.m. Warrant. River Vista Lane. An officer witnessed a vehicle that appeared to be disabled, blocking traffic. The officer identified the driver, discovering they had a warrant for their arrest. The driver was arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail.

Nov. 3

12:30 a.m. Domestic. Third Street N. Officers were dispatched to a physical domestic at a residence. Officers witnessed an altercation. Officers gained control of the situation

and, through investigation, arrested one individual for domestic assault. That individual was transported to Stearns County Jail.

Nov. 4

6:55 p.m. Suspicious activity. Lowell Lane. An officer investigated sounds and possible voices outside of a residence. The officers checked the surrounding area and could not find any suspicious activity but advised the resident to call if it continued.

Nov. 5

8:35 a.m. Traffic stop. Seventh Street N. An officer was running radar at a school when a vehicle approached at a higher rate of speed than the posted speed limit. The officer stopped the driver who admitted to speeding. The officer cited the driver for the speed and gave a verbal warning to the driver about not having their license in possession.

Nov. 6

12:05 p.m. Animal complaint. 12th Avenue N. An officer checked on a report of an ill fox. The officer determined that

the fox was unable to walk. The officer humanely euthanized the fox and city maintenance removed the animal.

Nov. 7

1:20 a.m. Suspicious vehicle. Pinecone Road N. An officer witnessed a vehicle running in the Sartell High School parking lot. The officer stopped the vehicle after it had left the parking lot and gave a verbal warning to the juvenile who was out after curfew. The juvenile's parents were contacted.

Nov. 8

10:20 p.m. No pay. First Street N. An intoxicated person got out of a cab without paying for the ride. Officers identified the individual and determined he was too intoxicated to care for himself. After being transported to the hospital, the individual became uncooperative and combative. The individual was then arrested and transported to Stearns County Jail.

Nov. 9

6:35 p.m. Theft. CR 120. A business reported two people shoplifting. The individuals were cited for the theft and released by

the officer.

Nov. 10

3:15 a.m. Burglary. First Street NE. Officers answered at a business. Officers found the business had been entered and items taken. Through investigation, the individuals have been identified and are being charged.

Nov. 11

9 a.m. Domestic. Second Street S. An individual came to the police department to report an ongoing domestic issue with another person. Issues involving a physical altercation at a residence have led officers to forward this issue to the city attorney for review.

Nov. 12

3:55 p.m. Driving complaint. Corrine Creek. An officer was dispatched to a driving complaint about a vehicle moving erratically on the road. The officer located the vehicle and the driver. The driver admitted to being late for practice and admitted to making poor driving choices. The officer gave a verbal warning about the driving.

Wrestling club opens opportunities for girls

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Chat with Nick Gruber for any length of time and the word you'll hear most often is opportunity.

Gruber, who coaches youth wrestling in Sartell, wants to create an opportunity for girls to have their own wrestling team instead of participating in co-ed activities.

Gruber says there's growing interest in wrestling teams for girls and women and the Sartell Wrestling Club plans to offer the chance this season.

The club offers youth wrestling for kids from pre-kindergarten to sixth grade. Two girls compete with the boys.

"We recognize that girls and women's wrestling is growing and we don't want to be late to

the game," Gruber said. "Our goal is to offer that competition regardless of skill level and have an opportunity to compete against each other."

The club's season starts Dec. 4 and runs through late March. They practice at Sartell High School. There's a tournament planned for Feb. 8 in Sartell.

Gruber said Sartell's program for girls will be only the third one in Minnesota. But interest in the sport is growing.

For example, Augsburg University in Minneapolis has a women's team.

Gruber wrestled at Pierz when the team was state champions in 2004 and 2005. One son and a daughter are too young to hit the mat, but his 9-year-old son is in the program.

Parents and girls who are interested should check out the club's website at sartellwrestling.com or the group's Face-

book page.

"Our belief is that giving kids an opportunity to wrestle, regardless of success, gives them great preparation for future," Gruber said. "Learning the value of discipline and the amount of work you put in will shape the results you will have. A wrestling program will prepare you to handle life's challenges."

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN
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HEARING

The St. Stephen City Council will review the proposed 2020 budget at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019 in the St. Stephen City Hall Council Chamber, 2 Sixth Ave. SE, St. Stephen.

The public is welcome to attend this public hearing.

/s/ Cris Draiss
City of St. Stephen City Clerk

Dated: Nov. 12, 2019
Publish: Nov. 15, 2019

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People



contributed photo

Sartell High School Jazz Band members (left to right) Beckett Neil, Josiah Wolters, Tyler Norman, Emily Domres and Ethan Neid.

Five Sartell High School students were named to the CLC All-Conference Jazz Band. They are the following: **Emily Domres, Ethan Neid, Beckett Neil, Tyler Norman** and **Josi-**

ah Wolters. On Oct. 28, they rehearsed and performed in Brainerd with the other All-Conference Jazz Band members. Director of High School Bands David Lumley said the students

had a great day at the CLC All-Conference Jazz festival in Brainerd. Matthew Patnode from NDSU was the clinician/director who worked with the band.

The **sixth grade Sabres football team** competed in the King of the Gridiron Youth Football Tournament in Big Lake and officials voted Sartell's players, coaches and parents to have exhibited exemplary sportsmanship. The team won a Best Sportsmanship award of all teams competing at the tournament for grades three through eight. The Sabre team was coached by **Nicholas Corrieri, Chad O'Hara, Chris Lang, Curt Landowski** and **Rodney Pederson** and assisted by Sabre varsity mentors **Jack Engle** and **Cody Lantis.**

Eight Sartell students earned academic honors at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for spring semester of 2018-2019 academic year.

The students are: **Claire Boschee**, College of Agricultural and Life Science, dean's list; **Holly Greer**, College of Agricultural and Life Science, dean's list; **Jacob Schumacher**, College of Agricultural and Life Science, dean's list; **Brandon Carlson**, College of Engineering, dean's honor list; **Morgan Gugger**, College of Letters and Science, dean's list; **Nicholas Juntunen**, College of Letters and Science, dean's list; **Matthew Murphy**, College of Letters and Science, dean's list; **Alayna Runge**, School of Education, dean's list.



Elizabeth Dille, Sartell junior, tallied her 1,000 career kill for the Sabre's volleyball team against Sauk Rapids on Oct. 25. She is the daughter of Stephanie and Mark Dille of Sartell.



Rebecca Windschitl

Rebecca Windschitl of Sartell received her first white coat and stethoscope at the University of Minnesota Medical School's Duluth Campus White Coat Ceremony on Aug. 16. The White Coat Ceremony is a rite of passage that serves to welcome first-year medical students to the profession and reinforce the value of humanism as foundational to medicine.

PET CARE | SEASONS

Winter Safety

Humans aren't the only ones affected by the bone-chilling temperatures and heavy snowfall that often accompanies winter. Our pets are equally impacted and require some special preventive care in the wintertime.

Frostbite, falls and hypothermia should all be real concerns for pet owners, especially for those living in colder parts of the country.

Fortunately, with a little common sense and attention to detail, you will be able to protect your pets from the dangers of winter.

GIVE THEM SHELTER

It's obviously best to keep pets inside during the winter months. Just because pets have fur doesn't mean they're not cold when the temperatures drop. No pets should be left outside for long periods of time in below-freezing weather.

If you are unable to keep your dog inside during cold weather, provide warm, solid shelter that protects against biting winds. Also provide plenty of fresh, non-frozen water to keep your pet hydrated. Use thick, dry bedding for a comfortable area for your pet to sleep.



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CHECK THE PAWS

Your pet's paws can become cracked or bloody if exposed to frigid winter conditions. Check your dog's paws frequently for signs of injury. Watch how he or she walks and look for any sudden lameness or painful strides.

If you take your dog on a walk in conditions that have recently been snowy or icy, you may be exposing your pet's paws to deicers, anti-freeze or other chemicals that could be toxic at high levels. After your walk, always wash

or wipe down your pet's feet, belly and legs to remove these types of fluids.

COLLAR AND CHIP

Many pets get lost in the wintertime because snow and ice can make it harder for them

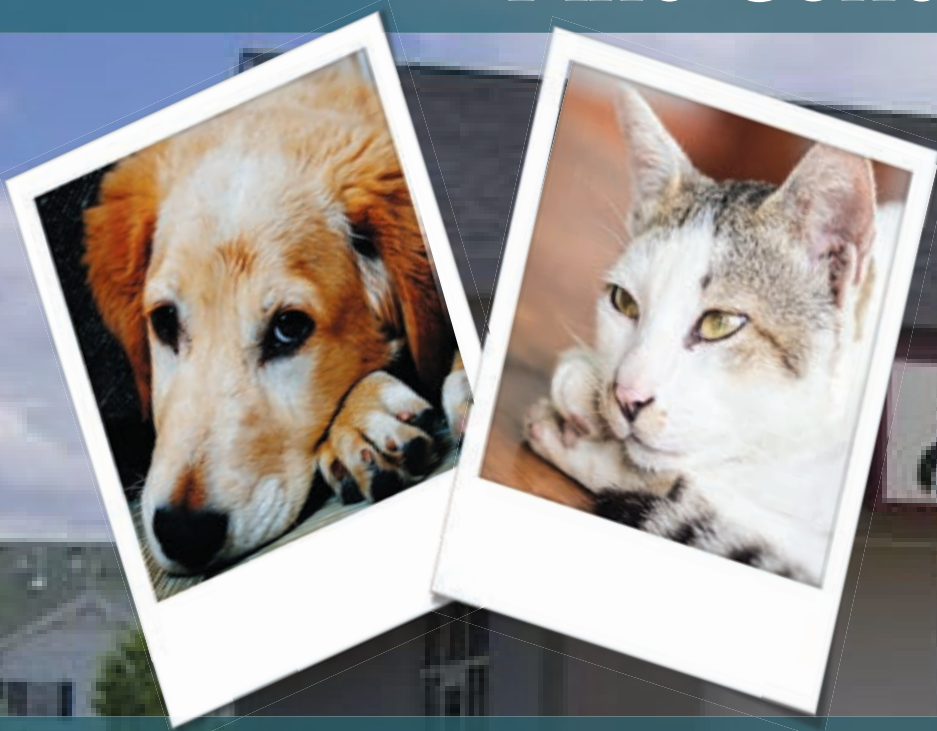
to find their way home. That's because these conditions can mask recognizable scents that a pet uses to navigate around your land or neighborhood.

This underscores the importance of always using a well-fitting collar that contains updat-

ed identification and contact information. Your veterinarian likely offers microchip services that provides a permanent form of identification if you keep the registration up to date. Check with your veterinarian to discuss your options.

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SMALL BUSINESS APPRECIATION | THE MORE YOU KNOW

Top Reasons to Shop Local

If you need a reason to shop local, chances are you haven't shopped local lately. The reasons and benefits are myriad, to both the business owners and consumers. Here are just a few of the top reasons shopping local can benefit you and your community.

Job creation: It just makes sense that supporting local small businesses brings more jobs in your community. According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses employ 59 million people, or almost half of the private workforce. And smaller local businesses have the largest share of small business employment.

Community investment: Shopping at local small businesses results in community investment. Almost half of tax dollars spent at local independent businesses are returned to the community, benefiting public services, schools and libraries, according to Civic Economics, an independent research firm. Studies show only around 14 percent of tax dollars from chain stores are returned to the local economy.

Community support: From coffee shops and bistros to bars and bookstores, locally owned small businesses are both a conduit and supporter of the communities they serve. They often help out in ways large, chain companies do not. They are community hubs that often offer their goods and services in support of a community, and employees are often enthusiastic volunteers.

Chain effect: Small local businesses are often located adjacent to others, fostering a



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chain of mutual support. If your community has developed an arts district, you're likely to find locally owned cafes, gift shops, restaurants and bars interspersed between the galleries. That

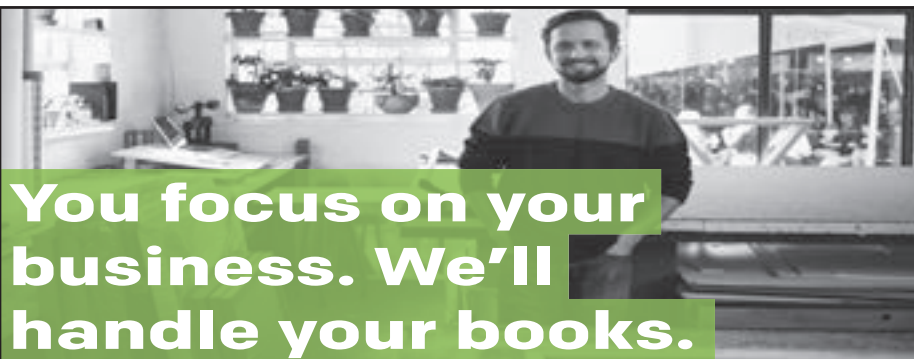
ripple effect benefits consumers, owners and the local economy.

Unique offerings: Last but not least, small, locally owned businesses exist to offer goods and services that can't be

found in chain stores.

Whether it's artisan bread, handmade gifts or craft beer or cocktails, you're likely to experience a wealth of talent, experience, passion and pride on exhibit when you shop

these businesses. You're also likely to meet others who appreciate the same qualities you admire, creating a base of support while fostering — and, in some cases, building — a community.



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The Magic of Christmas... Don't Stop Believing

SMALL BUSINESS APPRECIATION | TRENDS

Small Business Optimism Grows

Multiple surveys report that optimism is rising among small business owners and those who wish to exit their current jobs to start a small business. The reasons range from dissatisfaction with their careers or employment to the thriving economy and a desire to pursue a passion.

Alongside these reasons are growing trends that indicate who, where and why new small businesses are on the rise. Entrepreneur magazine identified nine such trends that are behind the motivation to take the plunge into small business ownership.

FOLLOWING A PASSION

Modern small business owners are motivated for the right reasons, the magazine reports. But beyond that, the success of small business has less to do with making money than pursuing a passion that fills a needed niche in their communities. That desire and confidence reinforce an entrepreneur's dedication and commitment, a key element for anyone already operating a small business or those contemplating a new venture.

TRENDING YOUNGER

It has been a general trend that most small business owners start their own enterprises between the ages of 50 to 59, usually after a successful corporate career and years perfecting their expertise. But the magazine cites Guidant Financial, a small business investment firm, as reporting a huge rise in entrepreneurs between the ages of 30-39. Additionally, millennials, those in their late 20s and 30s, are much more likely to turn their



© ADOBE STOCK

passions into a business at an early age.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Opening a new business in the right location is paramount. Vehicle and foot traffic matter, as well as positioning in range of other small businesses that cater to a specific audience. Sometimes, it also means considering another state, where incentives, popu-

lation and response to a particular business has generated success.

SEIZING THE MOMENT

The magazine also reports that the right type of businesses are being opened. Sometimes that means following a successful trend, such as a microbrewery, investing in a franchise or taking over a popular existing business and injecting it with fresh ideas. As

baby boomers age, the latter option opens up opportunities for young entrepreneurs to take over. That's particularly attractive for a number of reasons, including a built-in audience, an established brand and immediate cash flow.

A COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

Small businesses are unique in their commitment and attitude toward providing custom-

ers with excellent customer service and offering goods and services at competitive prices. Smart small business owners use a variety of tools — advertising and marketing in print and online, as well as community involvement — to promote and expand their expertise, value and spirit.

Similarly, new small businesses are adopting market segmentation strategies that help them avoid a one-size-fits-all approach that has played a huge role in the decline of big chains and failing iconic stores such as Sears. Customers are now more likely to make a business a destination if they get this right, and smart owners are using every marketing and data tool available to point out that expertise and funnel business.

GOING LEAN

Finally, a growing segment of new small businesses are spending less in startup costs and ensuring staffing meets the needs of the business. In other words, smart small business owners go lean at first to build a customer base and cash flow that allows them to expand as that base grows. Taking on less debt and employing only the staff a business really needs means a quicker exit from startup loans and the ability to adjust as a business grows.

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Special state grant funds school safety upgrades

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Thanks to a one-time grant from the Minnesota Legislature, Sartell-St. Stephen schools will have money for a number of safety upgrades.

At the school board's Nov. 6 work session, Joe Prom, director of Business Services, said the district will receive \$135,000.

The money comes from \$30 million that will be split among all Minnesota school districts based on enrollment.

Sartell-St. Stephen leaders plan to use the money to address a number of safety issues at schools. New security cameras will replace old technology at Oak Ridge and Pine Meadow schools.

The money will also pay for a new visitor entry system

now being rolled out across the district and for entry system upgrades.

The money had been approved on a contingent basis and depended on there being extra dollars available when the state closed the books on its budget year in June.

In all, \$63 million was freed up for school safety, a disaster response fund and bus service for riders with disabilities.

Board to discuss next year's school calendar

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleader.com

Fall 2020 is a long way off but Sartell-St. Stephen school leaders are already working on the school calendar for next year.

The school board plans to discuss a draft calendar at its Nov. 18 meeting and then approve a final version when the board meets in December.

With a later Labor Day next fall – Sept. 7 – school would not start until Sept. 8. The draft calendar shows Friday, June 4, 2021, as the last day of school.

In between those dates, school leaders are filling in other days off and special events.

In a change from past years, the draft shows schools open

on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which would be Monday, Jan. 18, 2021. Instead of giving students a day off, the day would be used to teach about civil rights and equality issues, as required by state statute.

The draft proposes spring break from Monday, March 29, to Friday, April 2, 2021, which would also coincide with the end of the third quarter.

If needed, school cancellation make-up days would be Feb. 15 and June 7. Because the district already schedules more than the state-required number of school days, the board can decide to forgive snow days instead of making them up, as happened last year.

The school board is scheduled to meet at 6:30 p.m. on

Monday, Nov. 18, at the District Service Center, 212 Third Ave. N.

Planning for the 2020-2021 school year will be a little more complicated as the last moves in the district's building reorganization take place. Middle school students will move into the former high school, which is being remodeled now. Students in grades three through five will move to the current middle school, which will be renamed Riverview Intermediate School.

The district's youngest students will attend the district's two elementary schools with pre-kindergarten through kindergarten attending Oak Ridge and grades one and two attending Pine Meadow.



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3 football greats help local cause

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

At a fundraiser dubbed Tackling Poverty, three Minnesota football greats signed autographs and mixed with a crowd the evening of Nov. 11 at the Blue Line Sports Bar & Grill in Sartell.

They helped raise money for an organization called Promise Neighborhood of Central Minnesota in east St. Cloud. The organization provides remedial academic skills and social opportunities for area children, including for some who live in Sartell. It is comprised of a network of volunteers.

The guests of honor at the Blue Line event were longtime famous Minnesota Vikings "Benchwarmer" Bob Lurtsema; former Vikings defensive tackle and Pro Football Hall of Famer (2010 inductee) John Randle; and current Vikings defensive tackle Linval Joseph.

The players signed autographs and souvenirs and enjoyed talking with visitors at the event, which included fun activities and a Swedish meatball dinner.

John Smith, who also attended the event, is board chairman and program developer for Promise Neighborhood. He said he is happy the three Vikings and others, including the owners of Blue Line, were kind enough to sponsor a fundraiser for such a good cause.

There are about 100 families involved in Promise Neighborhood, whose headquarters and activities center is at 1114 Ninth Ave. SE., St. Cloud. Most of the children and parent participants of the program live and go to school at Talahi or Lincoln elementary schools in east St. Cloud. Many of the families are immigrants who need help adjusting – whether it's help learning English or brushing up on math and reading skills. Promise Neighborhood also brings people – children and adults – together for social occasions, field trips and other fun activities so a wider social network, a getting-to-know-you attitude is nurtured.

Since it was founded seven years ago in St. Cloud, Promise Neighborhood was honored



contributed photo

Three Minnesota Vikings players sign autographs and souvenirs at a fundraiser dubbed Tackling Poverty Nov. 11 at Blue Line Bar & Grill in Sartell. From left to right are "Benchwarmer" Bob Lurtsema, former defensive tackle and Hall of Famer John Randle and current defensive tackle Linval Joseph.

with two Partners in Education awards, a Changemaker award and a Rock-On Granite City Award for Outstanding Leadership presented by St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis in 2016.

PN, as it's known, provides or facilitates advocacy, civic engagement, cultural competency, public speaking, academic support, emergency services, leadership development, social capital, leadership and economic opportunities.

The program is funded via donors, grants and fundraisers.

Board chairman Smith said the poverty rate exceeds 90 percent among the families whose children attend schools in east St. Cloud, which, he added, clearly shows the need for a program like PN. And the program, he added, would not be possible without so much help and generosity from local people and businesses that care. Many business people volunteer at PN and people of the wider faith community, such as United Methodist in Sartell – to name just one – are fervent PN supporters, Smith noted.

"Promise Neighborhood is about people coming together to solve a problem or problems," Smith said. "People getting together to solve problems and to have a good social time."

PN hosts a Math and Reading Club every other Friday for

children (and adults) to hone those skills. It sponsors occasional field trips (for examples, to Paul Bunyanland, a local dairy farm, the State Capitol, Twins games, the St. Paul Science Museum, the St. John's University campus), a community garden, arts-and-crafts activities such as designing and building skateboards.

"Our activities are meant to build connections and relationships among people," Smith said. "And some of our programs are designed for the 5-and-young age group, and others for children K through eighth grade. We provide training, including training in computer skills."

Through all of its programs and services, PN, Smith said, promotes the values of respect, integrity, compassion and – perhaps most of all – hope in the future of each families lives.

PN is also in need of donations in the forms of gas cards, Metro Bus passes, bedding like blankets and pillows, warm-weather clothing (hats, gloves, scarves, coats) new T-shirts and undergarments, personal-care items and educational games. For more specifics on those needs, call 320-251-0571.

To find out more about PN, visit its website and photo galleries at pncentralmn.com.

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Opinion

Our View

Voters lose with only Trump on the ballot

Republicans who vote in Minnesota's new presidential primary next year will have only one choice on the ballot. Even though he's not the only announced candidate, only Donald Trump's name will appear.

Last month, the state Republican Party notified the Secretary of State that the "list" of candidates for the March 3, 2020, primary will be a short one – just Trump.

That's a bad decision adding more evidence to the claim that Trump aspires to be an autocrat and can't tolerate criticism or challengers.

Trump continually brags he's going to flip Minnesota and win the state that he lost by less than 2 percent to Hillary Clinton in 2016. Behind the scenes he's apparently not so sure.

A Republican presidential candidate has won the state only once since 1956. A September Minnesota Poll showed him trailing all the leading Democratic candidates.

If he's so confident a majority of Minnesotans will vote for him next year, he shouldn't worry about members of his own party abandoning him.

Primary elections are essentially party elections for the purpose of selecting its candidates. So the parties can monitor who votes and validate the choices, the March 3 election will operate under rules Minnesotans are not used to following.

Unlike many states, voter registration in Minnesota doesn't include declaring a party. But for the new presidential primary, voters will be asked to request the ballot of the party of their choice. If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the presidential nomination primary.

A voter's choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, a list of who voted in a presidential nomination primary and the political party each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party. How a voter voted on the ballot will be secret. The presidential primary results must bind the election of delegates in each party.

Precinct caucuses on Feb. 25 and local and state nominating conventions will still take place to conduct other party business. In an Aug. 11 primary election, voters will select nonpresidential candidates to appear on the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

Trump's campaign has successfully killed the Republican Party primaries in Arizona, Kansas, Nevada and South Carolina. Incumbents often want to deprive challengers of a chance to build support because historically challengers threatened their re-election.

Three Republican candidates will not be on Minnesota's primary ballot. While long shots, they are prominent political names running active campaigns: former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld, former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford and former U.S. Rep. Joe Walsh of Illinois.

Despite boasting he is the most popular Republican since Abraham Lincoln, perhaps some of Trump's handlers have advised him that primary challenges don't end well for incumbent presidents.

A strong showing in 1968's New Hampshire primary by Minnesota Sen. Eugene McCarthy forced President Johnson out of the race. Ronald Reagan challenged President Ford in 1976 and Ford lost to Jimmy Carter (Ford also faced headwinds from Watergate). Four years later, Sen. Edward Kennedy weakened Carter's re-election bid and he lost to Reagan. In 1992, Pat Buchanan challenged President George H.W. Bush. Later that year, Bush lost the presidency to Bill Clinton.

In 2016, Trump finished third in Minnesota's Republican presidential caucus, trailing Sens. Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

State party leaders are worried a contested primary would show Trump isn't as popular as he claims. Instead of casting a vote – North Korean style – for Trump, Republicans should just stay home on March 3. Minnesota voters are the biggest losers in the Republican party decision.

Golden Gopher football returns to glory days of old

The last time it happened was 1960. No internet, no streaming, no ESPN. No instant replays on the black-and-white TV. No Vikings.

The sports news landed on the porch on Sunday mornings in the Minneapolis Tribune. The Sports "Peach" section featured page after page of photo sequences showing the previous day's big plays. In case you had trouble discerning the crucial details in the fuzzy photos printed on a letterpress, artists added arrows and circles pointing to the football and key players.

In 1960, college football was the big fall sport. The NFL was not the billion-dollar enterprise it is today.

And 1960 was the last time the Minnesota Gophers football team started the season 7-0...until this year. The Gophers earned their first berth in the Rose Bowl by winning the 1960 Big Ten title. After a loss to Washington, the Gophers returned to the Rose Bowl the next year and beat UCLA.

Here we are in 2019 and the Gophers are now 9-0 after beating Maryland and fourth-ranked Penn State to improve their 7-0 record.

In 1960, the Big Ten actually had 10 teams, not 14. Now the Gophers are leading the Big Ten West. They have a two-game lead with three to go, and their first Rose Bowl bid since 1961 is well within reach. First up, the Gophers travel to Iowa City to play the Hawkeyes, who have beaten Minnesota the last four years. The next game is at Northwestern. The Wildcats haven't won a conference game this season. The season finishes at home against Wisconsin.

The ring of honor in TCF Bank Stadium lists the dates for past glory, but it's embarrassing. The list of Big Ten championships ends in 1967. The

Mike Knaak
Editor



Gophers claim seven national championships: 1904, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1940, 1941 and 1960.

Golden Gopher football does have a long, grand tradition, just not in the last 60 years. Founded in 1882, the program is one of the oldest in college football. Minnesota has been a member of the Big Ten Conference since its inception in 1896 as the Western Conference. In 1890, the Gophers played host to Wisconsin in a 63-0 victory. With the exception of 1906, the Gophers and Badgers have played each other every year since then, the most-played rivalry in major college football.

The Gophers played the games of the glory years in Memorial Stadium. The team left their crumbling, historic home for the Metrodome in 1981. Games in the off-campus bubble lacked the traditional feel of a college football game, but at least it didn't rain or snow inside.

In 2009, the Gophers moved back to campus with the opening of TCF Bank Stadium. First-year sellout crowds dwindled after teams underperformed.

When the Brew Crew started 2010 with a 1-6 start, the university fired coach Tim Brewster. Jerry Kill followed and he was building a successful program. An illness forced him from the sidelines and Tracy Claeys followed. He was canned after he fumbled accusations of sexual assault against a group of players.

Now there's P.J. Fleck, who

popped up on the university's radar three years ago when he took Western Michigan to the Cotton Bowl and the team ended their season with a 13-1 record.

Fleck is a high-energy crafter of culture with his hokey "Row the Boat" mantra. He thinks of himself as an educator and football as his platform to make the world a better place by making his players better men. But like every big-time college coach, his real job is to put Ws on the scoreboard and fans in the seats. Winning does that. The Penn State crowd of 52,000 was the first sellout in four years.

The 31-26 win over Penn State was the first time the Gophers beat a top-five team in 20 years...when they beat the Nittany Lions 24-20 on a last-second field goal in 1999.

This year's game was no less thrilling than the 1999 matchup. Penn State's quarterback threw for what would have been a game-winning touchdown but Minnesota's Jordan Howden intercepted the pass in the end zone to effectively end the game with a minute to go. At the final whistle, fans poured onto the field.

The week before playing Penn State, Fleck signed a seven-year contract extension with a \$10 million buyout that will likely keep him off the market and away from Florida State and Southern California.

The Gophers are now ranked No. 7 in the nation in both the Associated Press and Coaches' Poll, the team's highest ranking since 1962.

No matter what happens in the next three weeks, the Gophers are playing their best football since Eisenhower was president. And fittingly, Fleck has the best winning percentage of a Gopher coach since Bernie Bierman, and he last coached in 1950.

Hats off to Franklin/Electrolux workers

The recent closing of the Electrolux Co. in St. Cloud was as sad as the closure of Fingerhut and the Sartell paper mill after an explosion there killed a worker and doomed the mill.

Those three companies employed so many people from the greater St. Cloud area and beyond who earned good wages to support themselves and their families. Growing up in south St. Cloud, I knew so many neighbors who worked at those places.

Electrolux was 73 years old.

I'm happy those good people who worked there – more than 700 of them – are receiving free retraining, if they choose, to help them find other kinds of work.

As I read the news of the final day of Electrolux, a flood of good memories surfaced. In my young and heedless heyday, that factory was known as Franklin Manufacturing. When I was fresh out of high school, 1966, Franklin's was my first "real" job after summers and winters of mowing and shoveling to earn sporadic spending money.

When I landed that job, its starting wage was – if I recall correctly – \$2.40 an hour, thanks to the powers of unionization. Sounds like chickenfeed now, but that would be the equivalent of \$20 or \$25 an hour now-

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



adays. And back then, the going wage for unskilled jobs was something like 85 cents an hour.

\$2.40! I thought I'd died and gone to heaven, my pockets always rustling, jangling, with bills and coins, plenty of money to buy books, record

albums from Musicland, a wonderful stereo from the Singer Co. To this day, when I hear songs from Simon and Garfunkel's "Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme" album and Dylan's "Blonde on Blonde" album, I often think of the Franklin days because I bought those albums that summer. Friends and I would sit for hours listening to them on my brand-new super-doooper stereo, drinking canned Cold Spring beer I'd snitch from dad's stash.

At Franklin, I worked 12-hour
Hats off • page 11

Letter to the editor

'No' means no chickens

Denise Rinne, Sartell

Chickens Again!

I have read several articles concerning the "pet chickens" and Sartell's ordinance. I applaud the City Council for being patient with the Siemens family and hearing their concerns at the Open Forum. I have to question the reasoning of the continued time and effort to change the ordinance when clearly the City Council has said no. Since when does the answer "No" mean "let's try

again?" Honestly I believe it sets a bad example and a lesson to learn. Sometimes "No" is "No." It's not "let's try something else to change their mind?" "how about we get statistics and opinions from other city's to change their minds," "There has to be another way, let's try again" and "again" etc... At some point accept what you can't change and move on. It's like a parent saying no to a child and the child keeps trying to get their way. Sometimes no has to mean no and leave it at that. What kind of example is this setting for others? No means No.

Hats off

from page 10

shifts. My job was to work with another employee to insulate freezer interior liner boxes with strips of yellow insulation we'd attach around the top with masking tape. The boxes looked like thin metal caskets. Then the boxes would move on down the line, to other workers at the "Foamer," where each box would be placed inside a larger freezer box and foamy liquid insulation would be pumped in the space between

the two boxes. It was monotonous work, long hours on hot afternoons and muggy nights, but we employees managed to make it almost fun – gabbing about our lives; our ambitions, hopes and dreams; playing practical jokes and spewing wisecracks as we did a kind of ritualized "dance" around that liner box, taping, taping, taping. I vividly remember Don, a coworker, who was so grateful for his job because it covered his house payment, two car payments and his family's living expenses. All of that on \$2-something an hour. Many people are not so fortu-

nate these days, having to work two and even three jobs. To this day, when I eat ham-and-mayonnaise sandwiches I think of Franklin because that is what I brought from home for lunch just about every day. I also flash back when I smell spray paint from aerosol cans because that is how Franklin smelled – from the spray-painting of the appliances. Back then, all of the fridges/freezers were still the good old standard white, but a new line of colors had just been introduced – Harvest Gold and Avocado Green. Wow! Colorful freezers!

What will they think of next? For years, I'd see those colored freezers/ fridges in people's garages – dented, faded, rusting at the edges but still working, usually holding caches of party beer. At the sight of those old relics, I'd flash back to the good ol' Franklin days, when life was so brimming with excitement and promise. Ah, youth! Ah, the carefree days! Long gone, but the memories glow like embers. Let me lift my glass to the laid-off Electrolux workers. May you all find good, new, well-paying jobs and lead healthy, happy lives.



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, Nov. 15

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

Saturday, Nov. 16

Sartell Winter Market, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St S, Sartell.
Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell. Free.

Sunday, Nov. 17

Best Omelette in Town, 8 a.m.-noon, Waite Park Ameri-

can Legion, 17 Second Ave. N. Includes hash browns, toast, coffee, juice and water.

Monday, Nov. 18

Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mn-bentonhistory.org.
St. Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease Support Group, 1-2:30 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids.
Sartell-St. Stephen school board, 6:30 p.m., District Service Center, 212 Third Ave. N.
St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 W Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

Memory Writers group develops topics and turns 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, Nov. 20

SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S., Sartell.
Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.
Girl Scout information session, 5:30 p.m., for girls in the Sartell /Sauk Rapids area. Sauk Rapids Government Center, 1239 Second St. N., Sauk Rapids.

Thursday, Nov. 21

Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Speaker is Mary Sartell Wasche, novelist.
American Legion-Sartell, open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. john.dennery@charter.net.
MOPS, Mothers of Preschoolers monthly social, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.
Great River Regional Coin Club, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Miller Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.

Friday, Nov. 22

Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mn-bentonhistory.org.
Saturday, Nov. 23
Toy Bingo, sponsored by Avon Women of Today, 9:30 a.m., St. Benedict's Church, Avon.

Saturday, Nov. 23

Monday, Nov. 25

Benton County Museum, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mn-bentonhistory.org.
Tuesday, Nov. 26
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.
Le Sauk Township Board, 7 p.m., Township Hall, 220 Fourth Ave. S., Sartell.

Wednesday, Nov. 27

Sartell Community Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service, 7 p.m. St. Francis Xavier, 219, Second St. N., Sartell.
Thursday, Nov. 28
Thanksgiving Day

Friday, Nov. 29

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GILBERT'S SALE YARD MACHINERY CONSIGNMENT SALE, DECEMBER 9, 9:00 A.M.. Advertising Deadline November 22. No Small Items, Tires after November 27. CON-SIGN TODAY, 641-398-2218, Hwy 218, Floyd, IA, www.gilbertsaleyard.com (MCN)

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photo by Mike Knaak

New sign completes look at Sartell High School

Josh Laudenbach places letters identifying Sartell High School on Nov. 1. Josh and his brother, Craig, from North Star Signs and Engraving hung the letters near the new building's main entrance.

Council completes business in record-setting time

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

At its Nov. 12 meeting, the Sartell City Council set an all-time record for a short council meeting – at 7 minutes and 36 seconds.

Mayor Ryan Fitzthum commented toward the end of the short meeting that “I think we’re going to set a record.” Many years ago, the council set a record with a meeting that lasted about 10 minutes.

There just wasn’t anything of pressing urgency on the agenda for Nov. 12, other than the council approving the Consent Agenda and

some rapid-fire updates of some items, such as a cable along Pinecone Road.

Save Station

The approved consent agenda included an item that approves a SaveStation (automated external defibrillator station) to be installed at Sartell’s Public Safety Facility, now under construction along Pinecone Road. The city’s portion of the cost for the SaveStation is \$5,000. Thanks to grants from CentraCare, there will also be SaveStations installed at the Sartell Community

Center and city hall. One currently exists at Lions Community Park, with its installation funded by the Sartell Lions.

Canceled meeting

The council agreed to cancel its Nov. 25 meeting so the full council can meet at the Public Safety Facilities building for a tour and updates on its progress. It is scheduled to open this spring. It will house the city’s fire and police departments.

More applications

The council did approve unanimously a resolution approving more applications for some commission appointments for the Economic Development Commission and the Sartell Planning Commission.

TCHS proclamation

It also approved, as part of its consent agenda, a city proclamation honoring the Tri-County Humane Society. In the proclamation, also proclaimed in other area cities, the TCHS is cited for finding homes for more than 3,000 animals per year and for its educational programs

to promote the well-being of lost, abandoned, surrendered or abused animals. On Dec. 11, the TCHS will celebrate its 45th birthday.

In the proclamation, part of it reads:

Whereas, the Tri-County Humane Society is an integral part of this community, providing services within schools, community groups, public libraries, and senior centers;

Now, therefore I, Ryan Fitzthum, Mayor of Sartell, declare Dec. 11, 2019 Tri-County Humane Society Day in Sartell. I encourage community members to celebrate and support TCHS for their contributions.”

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