

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Feb. 7, 2020
 Volume 25, Issue 3
 Est. 1995

Town Crier

St. Ben's to honor

Robin Balder-Lanoue

The College of St. Benedict Basketball Team hosts Bethel at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 at Claire Lynch Gymnasium at the Haehn Campus Center on the CSB campus. This event is part of a celebration for National Girls and Women in Sports Day. The 2020 Bennie Spotlight Award honoree, Robin Balder-Lanoue, will be honored at halftime along with a performance by the CSB dance team. All girls and women wearing a sports jersey will receive free admission to this event.

ABC Kinder Olympix Feb. 15 at Whitney

Explore letters and numbers while being active with your children during ABC Kinder Olympix from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Whitney Recreation Center, 1529 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. The morning will be filled with fun activities for improved reading skills and healthy lifestyles! Events include: inflatables, arts and crafts, obstacle course, alphabet games, healthy snacks and much more. For children ages 6 and under and their families. Nominal fee charged.

Sartell Summer Baseball registration now open

The 2020 Summer Sartell Baseball Registration is open. Please go to SartellBaseball.com to register. Find more information by following us on Facebook.

Help high school students with career exploration

More than 175 volunteers are needed on Friday, Feb. 28 at St. Cloud Technical & Community College to hand out snacks, direct students and parking. This is an opportunity for your business or networking group. Exploring Potential Interest and Careers is a high-quality career exploration event designed for high school students. Contact Mary Krippner at 320-223-7991 or mkrippner@unitedwayhelps.org or www.unitedwayhelps.org.

Help youth succeed

Pathways 4 Youth needs volunteers in a variety of positions to work with homeless youth. Work includes picking up meals and assisting on committees. Pathways 4 Youth allows homeless youth to access resources that can put them back on a path where they can grow as individuals and be contributing members of our community. To learn more, visit pathways4youthmn.org or call 320-316-1635.

Council sees revised arena expansion plan

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A newly revised plan for expansion of the Bernick's Arena was presented to the Sartell City Council at its last meeting.

The presenter was Chad Ritter, president of the Sartell Youth Recreation Center, also known as the Bernick's Arena.

Ritter said that after many listening sessions in recent months with the Sartell City Council members, the school district and donors, it was decided to build an outdoor refrigerated ice rink but one that would be enclosed.

The plan presented to the council about 10 months ago, Ritter noted, involved construction in three phases. The first was the creation of an outdoor multi-purpose, all-weather arena with bleachers that would have been covered only on the top with the sides open to the

weather. That phase would cost \$2.9 million. The second phase, costing \$1.1 million, would be expansion of the lobby. And the third phase, with a price tag of \$1.3 million, would greatly expand the locker-room facilities on the south side of the arena.

Now, however, the plan calls for a completely covered ice rink and the other features, all to be done at the same time rather than in phases, Ritter noted. The total cost is estimated at \$5.2 million, about the same as the three-phase plans.

The covered arena could be constructed with a heavy-duty fabric material or of pre-cast concrete. The fabric option, Ritter said, has distinct advantages, being an estimated \$1 million less expensive than a pre-cast design, and it would have a very high ceiling, making it ideal for indoor practice sessions of baseball, softball and lacrosse.



contributed photo

An architect's drawing shows the arena expansion with turf in place.

The arena would also have green turf, making it available year-round for other nonskating sports (spring and fall), as well as other community events. The turf, Ritter said, is a giant roll of specialized soft surface that can be rolled across the concrete

floor of the arena.

That feature (turf and indoor multi-sports use) is a huge draw for people to support the overall project, even from people who are not hockey fans, Ritter noted.

When an artist's conception of

Arena • page 4



photos by Carolyn Bertsch

Fun multiplies at PME Math Night

Above: Shannon Mohs, of Sartell, sets up a giant checker board Jan. 24 with his son, Julian, 8, at Math Night at Pine Meadow Elementary School. At right: Friends, Reagan Kimble (left) and Grace Magnuson, both age 8, of Sartell, react as a Mathnasium volunteer helps them play Number Detective.



Sartell leaders aim for careful growth

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitzthum says most residents will be satisfied if the number on the city's population signs don't need to be changed for two years.

That sentiment sums up city leaders' strategy for development and growth. They are looking for careful, consistent growth.

Recent state data predicts that Sartell's population will grow from about 18,000 resi-

dents now to 25,000 people in 2025. But "we won't be disappointed if that number isn't achieved," City Administrator Mary Degiovanni said.

The health and medical technology sector is Sartell's niche, and that's where future growth is expected, Degiovanni said.

That segment employs almost 2,000 people now, by far the largest employment sector in the city. And those jobs come with some of the highest average wages, about \$54,000 a year, according to the Depart-

ment of Employment and Economic Development. The next largest segment, retail trade, employs less than 1,000 people in jobs that pay half as much per year.

To attract more health and medical services, the city is installing fiber optic cable in its "Med Tech District" north of CR 120 and west of Hwy. 15.

"Sartell always had a draw for residential and medical businesses wanting to be here," Fitzthum said. "It also helps us as we talk about how we grow the retail sector."

The state data also shows that there are higher wage earners in Sartell compared with the rest of the region.

That information "helps us as we talk about how we grow the retail sector," Fitzthum said. "We want retail. We have residents who support retail. There are high wage earners (with disposable income) in Sartell compared to the region. Retailers are looking at it. We can quantify it for them."

Fitzthum said the city also wants to attract light industrial

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Degiovanni: partnerships, people, enliven Sartell

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

People then and people now are what Mary Degiovanni enjoyed most and still enjoys about her longtime job serving the city of Sartell.

Degiovanni announced she will retire as early as July after 16 years as a city-staff employee. She was financial director and city administrator, and for numerous years held both of those jobs at the same time. Her retirement announcement stunned many, the same way many were stunned when longtime Planning and Development Director Anita Archambeau resigned last year to move to Tennessee, her husband's place of employment.

In an interview with the Newsleader, Degiovanni said what she liked best about the job.

"People," she said. "No one would call me an extrovert, but honestly the people in Sartell are just so great. No matter how big or small the project or the decision, the (city) council and staff are able to talk to people in Sartell and get common-sense input or help in actually implementing ideas."

And the most challenging aspects of her job?

"It's been our fast growth and the impacts that has on the community in everything from infrastructure to neighborhood livability," she said. "I think most people in Sartell want to see us grow our tax base to help hold down taxes, but I've never thought the local community wants to see us grow as fast as we can. Fast growth is something that happens when you have such a desirable community, but it's not a goal we should be striving for."

Degiovanni credits former Mayor Sara Jane Nicoll and current Mayor Ryan Fitzthum with having a lifelong familiarity with Sartell, which helps steer the city in the right direction.

"They both lived in Sartell during their school years," she said, "and they both experienced the benefits of having great schools and safe neighborhoods so they both priori-



Degiovanni

tized maintaining the community strengths of Sartell. So I'm really happy about the direction the council is going and the great things that are going to be happening in Sartell - not just some strong commercial tax base we hope to do in the next few years, but a renewed focus on our neighborhoods and how to best deal with quality-of-life issues people face every day."

In the past few decades, Sartell experienced giant spurts of growth that caused benefits and drawbacks. Some of the benefits were commercial and industrial developments, but a drawback was how to fund so many things that those developments require, such as infrastructure and roads. It called for a constant balancing act between revenue and expenses, but the city managed to do it successfully year after year.

Time and again, Sartell received excellent annual audits and topnotch bond ratings from bond-rating agencies. Degiovanni was often singled out in audit reports as keeping the budget in line with expenses, but she herself credits the hard work of the city councils and city staff to keep expenses down and budgets frugal. She also credits the newest financial director, Heidi Ostlie, for doing a "stellar job" in managing city financial matters.

"That (financial health) has been a communitywide achievement," she said.

Fast growth, however well the city managed it, should never be a goal in and of itself, Degiovanni said she believes.

"I don't think most people are interested in how quickly

we can double in population again, and neither is the council," she said. "They are working toward high-quality steady growth and putting some focus on the folks who are already here and paying the taxes that support our community and our schools."

Funny, smart, helpful

Degiovanni began her job as financial director in January 2004. Her previous job had been administrator for Annandale.

"I was struck from Day One with how nice everyone was in Sartell - inside the city departments and in the community as a whole. People were funny and smart and helpful."

Calls from the general public, she said, were always so thoughtful and calm, even from those who were bothered by one problem or another. They always asked good questions and explained the problems with understanding and rationality, she noted.

She became city administrator in mid-2013.

"I can literally pick up the phone on any given day and have a choice of Sartell residents or business people to call to ask for help or advice," she said.

A sense of ownership and pride is so apparent in the city, Degiovanni said.

"You see it in everything from the volunteer youth coaches to the church communities to the Sartell Senior Connection," she commented. "Look at what Pinecone Central Park volunteers have done with our baseball and soccer facilities, and what the Bernick's Arena volunteers have done with that great facility for more than 15 years."

As an example of good partnerships, Degiovanni cited the library within the Sartell Community Center. The library issue caused much controversy several years ago when many residents wanted a full-fledged library in Sartell, to be paid for by half-cent sales-tax revenue. But three of the five council members at that time nixed

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Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

Newsleaders

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Newsleader staff members have the responsibility to report news fairly and accurately and are accountable to the public. Readers who feel we've fallen short of these standards are urged to call the Newsleader office at 320-363-7741. If matters cannot be resolved locally, readers are encouraged to take complaints to the Minnesota News Council, an independent agency designed to improve relationships between the public and the media and resolve conflicts. The council office may be reached at 612-341-9357.

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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.

Jan. 21

2:15 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 29 and 14th Ave. E. An officer spotted a vehicle with a broken brake light. The driver was notified of the broken brake light and instructed to fix it as soon as possible.

Jan. 22

12:30 p.m. Verbal dispute. Lowell Lane. Officers were dispatched to a residence after a complainant called 911 about their roommate being verbally abusive. Officers noticed both parties appeared to be intoxicated. There were no signs of physical abuse. Officers advised both parties to keep a distance from one another until they cooled down. Both parties agreed to maintain distance.

Jan. 23

2 p.m. Juvenile problem. Pinecone Road. A School Resource Officer was notified of a theft within the school. A student stole headphones that belonged to another student. The student that stole the headphones returned them the next day. The School Resource Officer discussed the issue with the student and notified the father. There will be school consequences.

Jan. 24

11:30 a.m. Unwanted person. CR 120. Officers went to a business regarding an unwanted individual who refused to leave. Officers made contact with the individual and made sure he left the property.

Jan. 25

10:45 p.m. Intoxicated person. Sunset Avenue. Officers were dispatched to a residence about an intoxicated person. The complainant stated their significant other was being verbal but nothing physical had happened. The complainant's significant other refused to speak with officers. No crime occurred. Officers advised the complainant to call if things escalated.

Jan. 26

11:45 p.m. Park check. CR 120. Officers patrolled Sauk River Regional

Park. Nothing suspicious noted.

Jan. 27

1:45 p.m. Traffic stop. Fourth Avenue S. and Heritage Drive. An officer witnessed a vehicle with extremely dark tint and expired tabs. The officer conducted a traffic stop and found the driver not only had expired tabs but also had invalid insurance. The individual was cited for both infractions. The officer transported the driver home and had the vehicle towed.

Jan. 28

6:30 a.m. Traffic stop. Pinecone Road and Roberts Road. An officer witnessed a vehicle fail to stop at a stop sign. The officer made contact with the driver. The driver was given a verbal warning.

Jan. 29

4:30 a.m. Theft. CR 120. A business reported a theft. The officer located the individual who had the stolen property in their possession. The business's asset protection will advise if they wish to prosecute.

Jan. 30

2:15 p.m. Agency assist. CR 120. An agency contacted Sartell police regarding a robbery in their city which resulted in an individual attempting to use stolen credit cards at a business in Sartell. An officer went to the business to review video footage for the agency.

Jan. 31

5:30 p.m. Trespass. River Oaks Lane. An officer witnessed an individual walking on clearly marked "NO TRESPASSING" property. The officer made contact with the individual and found drug paraphernalia during a pat-down search. The individual was arrested for possession of methamphetamine and transported to Stearns County Jail.

Feb. 1

Midnight. Suspicious vehicle. CR 120. An officer witnessed a vehicle in the parking lot of a business with their hazard lights on and steamed-up windows. The officer contacted the single occupant of the vehicle who stated they were homeless and trying to sleep.

Feb. 2

1:30 a.m. Argument. Second Street N. A complainant called 911 regarding two individuals yelling at one another outside in the alley. The complainant was unsure if it was physical. Officers

were dispatched to the area. Officers surveyed the surrounding area but were unable to locate the individuals.

Feb. 3

2 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 1. An officer witnessed a driver operating a vehicle not wearing a seat belt. The officer made contact with the individual whose driver's license was revoked and also had no proof of insurance. The officer cited the driver for the infractions.

PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF ST. STEPHEN
LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

The City of St. Stephen will hold a Public Accuracy Test of its election machines at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020.

The City will test the AutoMARK (ballot-marking machine) and the DS200 (ballot-counting machine).

The public is welcome to view the test as the City prepares for the Presidential Primary on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

St. Stephen City Hall
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/s/ Cris M Draiss
St. Stephen City Clerk

Dated: Feb. 4, 2020
Publish: Feb. 7, 2020





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Degiovanni

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that idea in favor of a multi-use community center with gymnasiums, senior center, meeting rooms and a library area within. The current library is comprised of lots of donated books and other materials and thanks to an agreement with the Great River Regional Library system, Sartell residents can order online materials in the system that are delivered to lockers in the community center.

"I love libraries," said Degiovanni. "And there is simply not a nicer library in Central Minnesota than the one our unique partnerships and our Sartell library volunteers have created in Sartell. We literally get calls from other cities asking how we do it, and I honestly respond that our community does it . . . It adds up to millions of dollars in time and talent and funding that makes the Sartell community so strong."

Degiovanni said she loved her work on various committees and working groups. They include the City-School Working Group, the Sartell-Le Sauk Joint Planning Board, the Greater St. Cloud Development Corp., the Sartell Chamber of Commerce, the Sartell-St. Stephen school district and its Community Education program.

"They are our partners," she said.

Degiovanni also noted all of the changes Sartell has imple-

mented throughout the years: the expansive medical arts campus, a Metro Bus service, the library, the community policing focus, the Senior Connection, amenities added to city parks, development of a wide and diverse tax base, the interconnected public-private partnerships (including the school district) and remarkable volunteerism that keeps the city so dynamic and exciting.

"We could literally never tax enough to do what these folks (volunteers, partnerships) go out and do each and every day," she said, "and we would never do it as well as the community is doing it."

Family

Degiovanni is looking forward to spending more time with her 13 grandchildren, ages 4 months to 14 years. They are the grandchildren of her husband, Jim, a retired attorney, who has three children – Kate, Leigh and Joseph, all living in the St. Cloud/Sartell area. The couple owns a 40-acre hobby farm, and Jim in post-retirement raised organic foods for farmers' markets and some local restaurants. Degiovanni, too, loves gardening, tending a small flock of chickens and some sheep. The couple and the children love the outdoors: camping, hiking, snowshoeing.

Born in Red Lake Falls, Degiovanni earned a bachelor's degree from the College of St. Benedict and then began her many years of city work, most especially for Sartell.



contributed photo

Top spellers advance to regional contest

Twenty students in grades five through eight participated in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district spelling bee on Jan. 27. The top three winners with Vice Principal Abby Lyon are (from left) Elizabeth Lo, second place; Lysander Irvin Borg, first place; and Ruby Carlson, third place. The three winners will advance to regionals on Feb. 5.

Leaders

from front page

companies as well and startup businesses.

Sartell's population growth has slowed the past 10 years. While the population grew 79 percent in the 1990s and 65 percent in the 2000s, the population increased about 16 percent in the last 10 years.

"We don't want an explosion of population that has an affect on all parts of the city. That's not a huge benefit," Fitzthum said.

Sartell's growth plan also includes a one-year moratori-

um on apartments approved last fall. The city is looking for incremental residential growth and to keep property taxes low, the mayor said.

Degiovanni said "people love the neighborhood feel in Sartell. By 2025 we want to maintain that strong neighborhood feeling." To do that, she said, the city stays focused on what they are hearing from citizens.

The city has started a branding campaign that focuses on what makes Sartell unique. The goal, the mayor said, is "Sartell will be more well-known while maintaining a small-town feel."

Arena

from front page

an indoor turf arena appeared in the Sartell Newsleader, Ritter said he received many calls from people who saw that picture and were enthused about it. The rental fees for use of the new all-weather ice arena could well cover maintenance expenses for the facility, Ritter said.

Construction of the project could begin in fall 2020 and would be completed by summer 2021. Fundraising continues, with about \$2,262,000 raised from 14 major donors, and conversations are ongoing with 11 other donors, Ritter noted.

One of the major donors is Scheels Sporting Goods, which will have naming rights – Scheels Athletic Complex. Regional Diagnostic Radiology will have naming rights for the expansion itself, and Bernick's extended its naming rights to the original ice arena, which was built about 15 years ago.

A citywide community fundraising drive will be announced soon. In the meantime, costs and designs for the project will continue to be researched and fine-tuned, Ritter told the council.

The city of Sartell has allowed its contracted engineering firm, Short Elliot Hendrickson, to work on the planning stages of the expansion for consistency and continuity of the public-private partnership. The school district also has input into the planning, Ritter said.

The council members thanked Ritter for the presentation and expressed admiration for the project.

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WHERE TO START

The National Endowment for Financial Education’s website Smart About Money has these tips to make sure you’re building a solid savings plan.

List savings as a fixed item in your spending plan. You’re less likely to spend money you already have earmarked.

Use automatic savings tools from your bank or other financial institutions. Some will move your spare change from purchases into your savings account automatically, making it easy to increase your savings without much effort.

Save all or part of a certain type of income. This can include your tax refund, annual bonus, tip money or extra freelancing cash.



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Create an emergency fund with the goal of having three to six months’ of expenses covered. This can buy you and your family some time if there were to be an unexpected injury or job loss that hampered your incoming cash flow.

ACCOUNTABILITY

What good does a savings plan do for you if you don’t stick with it? Find an account-

ability partner to routinely check in on your finances to make sure you’re staying the course. This can be your spouse, a trusted friend or a qualified financial professional who can help you stay on track. If you ask for accountability, however, be prepared to have some tough conversations. Your accountability partner is there to help you maintain your discipline so be prepared to accept their questions

and advice along the way.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACCOUNTS

Once you have enough money stashed away, there are many different ways to put it to work for you. Talk to your bank about interest-bearing savings accounts that can earn you money, but may have withdrawal or other limits. There are also CDs and other investment options to explore.

Find an accountability partner to routinely check in on your finances to make sure you’re staying the course.



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CONDUCT SOME TRAINING

Depending on how your animal responds to direction and discipline, training exercises can be a great way of building a bond with your pet.

New behavioral training builds your skills in communicating with your pet, as well as in trusting him or her to listen to instructions. Make sure to keep training positive and collaborative, using a gentle, reward-based approach.

This style will help your pet look forward to training, giving the two of you positive time together to grow as pet and owner.



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MAKE FEEDING TIME STRUCTURED

When it's time to prepare meals, engage with your pet during the process. Call your dog over to sit and wait while you fill up the bowl. Pet the dog and talk to it to encour-

age a calm, relaxing eating experience.

Always remember to give your pet space during mealtime. Following a structured routine such as this helps your pet respect your rules and understand that you call

the shots. This healthy relationship will help you earn your pet's respect, leading to a strong bond over time.

DON'T FORGET TO PLAY

You can introduce training and structured mealtimes until

you're blue in the face, but until you devote some time to playing with your pet, you won't be unlocking the true essence of being a pet owner.

Games such as fetch, tug-of-war or chase will help you not only keep in shape, but also

allow your pet to enjoy your company because of your positive energy. Think of ways to introduce listening exercises within your play and look for parks that are pet friendly. The more space the better to let your pet explore and enjoy.

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School Forest opens doors to outdoor classroom

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Many students need to hop a bus for a chance to learn in a forest or prairie. But starting next fall, students at Riverview Intermediate School will find the forest right outside the door.

The outdoor classroom is now possible after wooded land west of the school was designated a School Forest by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Third-, fourth- and fifth-graders who will attend Riverview, the current middle school being converted for their classes, will learn in about 60 acres surrounding Sartell-St. Stephen's three schools along Seventh Street N.

The outdoor classroom effort began a year-and-a-half ago when a team of administrators and teachers visited other schools looking for learning ideas appropriate for intermediate students.

"We visited other districts to get ideas and what we could offer our students while staying true to our traditions," said Zach Dingmann, intermediate school principal. "Our focus is on community connections, hands-on learning and the environment. We reached out to the DNR and the more we found out, we decided it would



contributed photo

The red line denotes the boundaries designated by the Department of Natural Resources as a School Forest. The land is west of the current Middle School, which will be renamed Riverview Intermediate School when it opens in the fall.

be a great fit."

The staff has written goals for the forest that include an outdoor learning space and maintaining a healthy forest.

"It's an opportunity to get outside the school walls and tie in standards of classroom learning with hands-on, real world experiences," Dingmann said.

The school forest presents opportunities beyond the obvious biology and nature lessons. Dingmann said the plan is to involve all disciplines including art and technology. Art students, for example, could draw and design wood duck houses while technology students could explore how to more efficiently maintain the forest.

"There are teachable moments out in nature and things happen," Dingmann said.

Eventually, school leaders would like to involve parents and community volunteers with activities such as clearing out buckthorn and pruning the trees.

With the DNR's guidance and support, the district will be able to apply for grants to maintain the forest.

The school forest project is part of the district's building reconfiguration plan and class reassignment. Now that the new high school is open, more building moves are underway. Third- through fifth-graders will move into the newly named Riverview building with an

expected enrollment of about 900. Middle school students will move a few blocks west and be served at the former high school, currently closed for remodeling. In the fall, Oak Ridge Elementary School becomes Oak Ridge Early Learning Center serving students in Pre-K and kindergarten. Pine Meadow Elementary becomes Pine Meadow Primary School serving first- and second-graders.

There are more than 135 designated School Forests in

Minnesota. School Forests range from less than one acre to 300 acres, for a total of more than 8,000 acres. The School Forest program was established by law in 1949.

The designated school forest land is part of the original property purchased in 1968 for the district's first high school.

"This is a super-exciting time," Dingmann said, "and a great opportunity to encompass a lot of initiatives of what we're going to be about at Riverview."

Valentine's card leads to love

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

In kindergarten in Albany, way back in 1986, a little girl named Stefanie Krebs received a whole bunch of cards on Valentine's day from class chums, but she later threw them all away – all but one.

The card showed cartoon character Garfield the cat next to a Teddy bear. On the back it was signed, "Love, Jacob."

Eighteen years later Stefanie married the boy who'd sent that cute card – Jacob Rothstein. They now live happily in St. Stephen and have two children – Caden, 12; and Evie, 9.

"We were best buds in kindergarten," Stefanie recalled. "But I lived in Albany and he lived in St. Martin and so out of school we never saw each other."

And then distance divided the two "buds." After kindergarten when he moved to Farmington. Seven years later, he was again in school at Albany, in seventh grade.

"But in high school we didn't really know each other anymore," she said. As a result, they both developed kind of cold-shoulder attitudes to each other. That icy reserve broke quickly in ninth grade when Stefanie learned Jacob was dating her best friend. She was not



contributed photo

Jacob and Stefanie Rothstein recently returned from a 15th anniversary vacation in Hawaii where they enjoyed quiet times together hiking in the lush steep forests.

happy, not at all. In fact, she was more than a little jealous; she was mighty mad. She and Jacob got into a verbal fight. Shortly after, he broke up with that girlfriend. And then he asked Stefanie to go to a movie. That was in 1996. The dating continued and one day eight years later Jacob asked Stefanie to marry him. They married in the Seven Dolors Church in Albany, took a 10-day Princess cruise to the Caribbean and then moved to St. Stephen. Just recently, they returned from a trip to Hawaii to celebrate their 15th wedding anniversary.

They often recall that kinder-

garten Garfield Valentine's card, and Jacob himself is "quite a card," according to Stefanie.

"To me, being with Jake every day is Valentine's Day," Stefanie said. "He has a child-like humor. Sometimes I think he hasn't yet passed out of middle school because when they're

Card • back page



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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 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, Feb. 7

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

Saturday, Feb. 8

"Russian Fairytales," 1-3 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. Part of the Exploring History and Culture in Central Minnesota - The Museum of Russian Art series. Free.

Sunday, Feb. 9

Project ASTRIDE Benefit Breakfast and Silent Auction, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Moose Family Center, 1300 Third St. N., Waite Park. Nominal fee for adults and children 10 and under; children under 3 free.

Snowstomp, noon-3 p.m., Wildwood County Park, 29709 Kipper Road, St. Joseph. Help make snowshoe trails through the woods to kick off the maple syrup season.

Monday, Feb. 10

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

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

Tuesday, Feb. 11

Sartell Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell. 320-258.6061. info@sartellchamber.com.

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Breakfast Club, 9-10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S. Free for members, nominal fee for nonmembers. 320-253-8424.

2020 Census - Ensuring a Complete Count, sponsored by St. Cloud Area League of Women Voters, 1-2:30 p.m., Bremer Room, St. Cloud Public Library, 1300 St. Germain St.

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

Thursday, Feb. 13

Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Speaker: JoyGenea Schumer, AARP, senior fraud.

Friday, Feb. 14

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

Saturday, Feb. 15

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

Ice Fishing Contest, sponsored by the St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, noon-2:30 p.m., Kraemer Lake.

Sunday, Feb. 16

Best Omelette in Town, 8 a.m.-noon, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N, Waite Park. Nominal fee includes hash browns, toast, coffee, juice and water.

Monday, Feb. 17

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.

St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club, 7 p.m., American Legion, 101 W Minnesota St., St. Joseph.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

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 case-worker 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 to 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, Feb. 19

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

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

Sartell-St. Stephen school board work session, 6:30 p.m., District Service Center, 212 Third Ave. N.

Sixth District DFL candidate debate, doors open 6 p.m., debate starts at 6:30 p.m., Monticello Community Center, 505 Walnut St.

Thursday, Feb. 20

Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Speaker: Cheryl Anderson, Shepherd Tours.

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.

Friday, Feb. 21

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

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Public notice

TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEC. 16, 2019
SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL WATAB ROOM 101-102

The public hearing for the proposed 2019 payable 2020 levy started at 6:02 p.m. called by Chair Jason Nies. Members present: Nies; Jeremy Snoberger, vice chair; Pamela Raden, clerk; Amanda Byrd, treasurer; Lesa Kramer, director; Patrick Marushin, director; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Members absent: none.

Business Manager Joseph Prom reviewed the 2019 payable 2020 levy materials including the 2019-2020 budget, types of levies and property tax calculations.

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DEC. 16, 2019
SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL WATAB ROOM 101-102

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Jason Nies. Members present: Nies; Jeremy Snoberger, vice chair; Pamela Raden, clerk; Amanda Byrd, treasurer; Lesa Kramer, director; Patrick Marushin, director; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Members absent: none.

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

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

a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on Nov. 18, 2019
Minutes of the special school board meeting held on Dec. 6, 2019

b. Checks in the amount of \$1,462,916.15 as presented:

General Fund	1,152,217.94
Food Service Fund	124,585.02
Transportation Fund	126,741.00
Community Service Fund	40,391.51
Capital Expenditure Fund	18,856.35
Summer Rec Agency Fund	124.33
Check numbers 177019 – 177249	

ACHs in the amount of \$5,834.77 as presented:

General Fund	5,724.00
Food Service Fund	110.77
ACH numbers 192000093-192000111	

Receipts in the amount of \$4,430,220.80 as presented:

General Fund	2,391,901.47
Food Service Fund	261,903.45
Community Service Fund	112,526.28
Capital Expenditure Fund	12,979.29
Building Fund	1,959.69
Debt Service Fund	1,648,950.62
Receipts 46925 - 46983	

Wire transfers in the amount of \$61,742.62 as presented:

General Fund	41,259.70
Food Service Fund	16,469.11
Community Service Fund	2,958.51
Capital Expenditure Fund	1,055.30
Wire transfers 201900320-201900411	

Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$2,033,937.21 as presented:

Building Fund	2,033,937.21
Check numbers 600796 to 600832	

c. Accept the following donations:
Sartell-St. Stephen Education Foundation, Sartell, Middle School, \$100, donation for SPED equipment; United Way c/o Heather Wensel, ISD #748, \$71.03, general donation; Owen’s Night Out, Pine Meadow Elementary, \$177.28, donation for classroom supplies.

d. Accept the resignation of Faye Madigan, District, food service sub, 11/26/19; Dale Toenjes, District, bus driver, 11/18/19; Aaron VanDanacker, SHS/SMS, accompanist, 11/18/19.
All in favor. Motion carried.
Student Representative Report: Sarah Ufearo, student representative

Student Representative Ufearo reported on happenings around the district. Throughout the last month the High School held three successful fundraisers including a turkey-in-a-bag food drive, Toys for Tots toy drive and a teddy bear toss for boys’ hockey. The Middle School tied blankets for veterans overseas and had their band and choir concerts early this month. The annual Holiday Café will be held on Dec. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Pine Meadow is having its Winter Wonderland celebration culminating with a bingo night this Friday. Oak Ridge had special visitor day on Dec. 6 and finished a Salvation Army food drive on Dec. 9. The High School Student Council is still in need of host families for students when they host the state convention in April.

Superintendent Report: Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent

Schwiebert reported the next board meeting will be the organizational meeting and the date will be confirmed tonight. Thanks to the City of Sartell and everyone who attended the social engagement event earlier this month. In a meeting with City staff, discussions were held regarding potentially expanding the existing walking trail to the High School and if adding a third student resource officer would be possible. A letter will be sent to families tomorrow explaining the new drop-off route and procedures for Pine Meadow. Transportation for K-5 students was briefly discussed. Thanks were given to all involved with gymnastics for their cooperation in using the old High School site during construction.

Construction Manager Report on Building Process:

Construction Manager Lee Gruen reported the remodel at the old High School is going very well. Highlights include the media center being ready for painting, the science area is being taped, casework will begin next week, the skylight will be arriving next week and roofing continues as planned. At the High School, graphics are being placed throughout the building over break.

School Board Committee Report:

Clerk Raden reported on the Communications and Technology committee meeting she attended.

Treasurer Byrd reported on the Curriculum, Instruction and Advisory committee meeting she attended.

Vice Chair Snoberger reported on the Sartell Senior Connection meeting he attended.

Enrollment Report:

Superintendent Schwiebert reported on the current enrollment numbers for each school.
A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Snoberger to APPROVE #1-20:

New Employees/Changes:
Jennifer Ambrosier, SMS, accompanist, \$20.29/hour, RV, S4, 5 hours/week, replacing Aaron VanDanacker, 11/18/2019; Alexander Bade, SHS, gymnastics assistant, \$3,912 (9.5 percent), BA, Step A (\$41,178), replacing Shelby Hall and Alexis Flaherty, 11/11/2019; Alicia Fosso, SMS, special education (short-call sub), \$191.45/day, 8 hours/day, replacing Carmen Peterson, 11/18/2019; Nolan Frank, ORE, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Rebecca Simonsen, 12/5/2019; Kimberly J Gerads, DSC-Early Childhood, child care attendant, \$13.87/hour, RI, S1, 3 days/week (5.25 hours), 2 days/week (6.25 hours), replacing Kaylee Johnson, 12/3/2019; Kimberly M Gerads, SHS, media aid, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 4.5 hours/day, replacing Sarah Lukken, 12/16/2019; Kristen Heinen, SMS, life skills substitute, \$191.45/day, replacing Katie Vinje-Stark/Amanda Holstrom, 12/16/2019; Kaylee Johnson, DSC-Early Childhood, child care attendant, \$15.91/hour, RI, S4, 5.25 hours (T, TH, F), 6.25 hours (M, W), replacing Marina Schroeder, 11/18/2019; Mallory Johnson, SMS, 5/6-grade Math Masters, \$927 (2.25 percent), BA, Step A (\$41,178), volunteer position previously, 12/1/2019; Daniel Mockenhaupt, SHS, accompanist, \$16.82/hour, RV, S1, 5 hours/week, replacing Aaron VanDanacker, 11/18/2019; Jesse Paggen, District, head custodian, \$28.25/hour, RVIII, S7, new position, 12/2/2019; Christopher Schumer, SMS, seventh-grade boys basketball, \$2,615 (6.35 percent), BA, Step A (\$41,178), replacing Jordan Gieske, 12/17/2019; Theresa Sievers, DSC-Early Childhood, SPED, \$32.50/hour, increase in need through end of year, 10/29/2019; Brock Swanson, SHS, ninth-grade girls basketball, \$4,324 (10.5 percent), BA, A (41,178), replacing Jake Smith, 11/11/2019; Lori Tchida, ORE, head custodian, \$26.74/hour, RVIII, S6, 8 hours/day, replacing Jesse Paggen, 12/2/2019.

Leaves of Absence:

Robert Graham, SHS, cleaner, LOA, 12/1/19-12/18/19; Montana Peters, SMS, SPED, LOA, 4/24/20-end of school year; Emily Stoebe, SHS, SPED, LOA, 4/27/20-end of school year; Michelle Traut, ORE, para, LOA, 12/16/19-1/27/20; Kristen Uran, PME, teacher, LOA, 1/30/20-2/19/20.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by Byrd to ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019 AS PRESENTED. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Snoberger to APPROVE PROPOSED 2020-2021 ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL ISD 748 AS PRESENTED. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE CLERICAL, PARAPROFESSIONAL, 284 MULTI-UNIT, CERTIFIED STAFF & ECFE SENIORITY LISTS. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE THE CERTIFICATION OF THE 2019 PAYABLE 2020 PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,348,906.42. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by Byrd to APPROVE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES WITH JLG ARCHITECTS AS PRESENTED. All in favor. Motion carried.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Organizational Meeting – Monday, Jan. 6 – District Services Center @ 6:30 p.m.

Board Work Session – Monday, Jan. 6 – District Services Center @ 7 p.m.

Future Board Meeting - TBD
Committee Assignments were reviewed.

The Board took a five minute recess at 7:31 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Snoberger TO CLOSE THE MEETING FOR NEGOTIATIONS STRATEGY PURSUANT TO MN STAT. 13D.03. All in favor. Motion carried. Business Services Director Joe Prom and Human Resources Director Bart Appleton were invited to join the discussion.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Kramer at 7:44 p.m. TO OPEN THE MEETING. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:45 p.m. was made by Raden and seconded by Marushin. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Pamela Raden, clerk

Publish: Feb. 7, 2020

Opinion

Our View

An inaccurate census could put Minnesota's representation at risk

Every 10 years, we get a chance to count how many people live in the United States. In addition to the basic count, we learn where people live and basic demographic information such as age, gender, race and ethnicity.

Governments use that data to fund and plan a variety of social, educational and public safety expenses. Most importantly, the count is used to draw political boundaries and determine our representatives at all levels of government.

Getting an accurate count is always important, but this year, an accurate count carries significant implications for Minnesota's 5.6 million people.

Latest population estimates show slower growth in Minnesota that could mean the state will lose a seat in the House of Representatives and one of its 10 Electoral College votes.

The census this spring will determine how the country's 435 congressional seats are divided up. Minnesota barely hung onto its eight seats after the last census in 2010, but its growth hasn't kept pace with states such as Florida and Texas that are poised to gain seats.

Minnesota's projected population could fall between 21,000 and 25,000 people short of keeping the seat. The new population estimates illustrate the importance of an accurate census count this spring and summer, when every Minnesotan will be asked to fill out a census form online. Census letters go out in mid-March, and efforts to reach people who have not responded will continue until the end of July.

Growth is driven by births, deaths and migration. The number of births has remained low since the recession and there has been slower international immigration for several years, according to the consulting firm Election Data Services. The biggest swing in 2019 was a steep dive in the number of people arriving in Minnesota from other states, dropping from 6,500 to nearly zero.

Minnesota's population grew by about 0.6 percent last year, or about 33,000 people. That was down slightly from 0.7 percent the prior year. Annual growth rates have generally hovered in that range since 2011, though they nearly reached 0.8 percent in 2017. Texas, by comparison, grew by about 1.3 percent last year.

Recent misguided attempts by the Trump Administration to add a citizenship question to the census may have created fear and distrust among recent immigrants and refugees.

Those concerns need to be addressed as a part of the effort for an accurate count. Words and deeds that are intended to make immigrants and refugees feel unwelcome may ultimately backfire if an undercount results in the state losing representation and federal money.

State officials will learn if the state loses a House seat in December. During 2021, legislators and probably eventually the courts, will use the data to redraw district lines.

Local officials need to carry the message that everyone who lives here needs to be counted.

We all need to make sure our friends, families and neighbors participate in the census.

•••

The League of Women Voters is sponsoring 2020 Census-Ensuring a Complete Count, at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, at the St. Cloud Public Library, 1300 St. Germain St.

Get technology out of baseball

And then it was over, with a bang. The fall sports season ended with the last blasts of confetti canons after the Super Bowl. Fall, the most exciting sports season, features pro and college football and the World Series. When the NBA and NHL launch in the fall, every team has a chance to be champion.

But now it's February and the excitement is over. The Wolves and Wild slog through the last halves of their seasons, unlikely to make playoffs that are still more than two months away. It's not yet time to fill out March Madness brackets.

I'm looking forward to baseball and soccer. The Twins report for spring training in a week. Minnesota United's home season kicks off on March 15 and features five home games in March and April.

But mostly I'm thinking about baseball and the sport's recent struggles with technology.

Major League Baseball's investigations of sign-stealing tainted Houston's 2017 World Series win. The team's owner fired manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow. The fallout continued to fall on other former players and coaches who had moved on to other teams. Red Sox manager Alex Cora and Mets manager Carlos Beltrán lost their jobs.

The sign-stealing scheme involved watching video from a center field camera and relaying the catcher's sign to the batter via a player in the dugout banging on a trash can. One or two bangs signaled off-speed pitches while no bang equaled a fastball. The scheme was a perfect match of high technology, low technology and a long tradition of sign-stealing.

Senators deliver crown: All hail, King Donald!

Like fawning courtiers, U.S. Senators just handed over a crown: All hail, King Donald!

That impeachment nontrial was a very dark day for America.

The jaw-dropping moment of the farce came when Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz flailed his arms like a wind-up toy in his pretzel logic, which goes like this: In the Ukraine scheme, Trump was merely trying to expose Biden's horrible corruption in order to protect our nation from his (Biden's) potential ascent to power. By helping himself get re-elected, you see, Trump was only trying to serve the national good – thus he committed no impeachable offense. Who can miss the bleak irony and blatant stupidity of that insulting assertion?! Good thing Dershowitz is not a professor of logic.

Like a sandbox bully rewarded, this newly consecrated president is crowing he has been exonerated once again. Now doubly emboldened, King Donald the Innocent will continue to erode the U.S. Constitution and imperil our democracy. With sickening selfishness, The Donald mistakes the world for one big real estate deal. This king must be deposed. There are 13 reasons, at least, why the Royal One should be voted off the island:

1: Indisputable facts show Trump tried to strong-arm Ukraine into announcing a phony Biden investigation. A corollary of that scheme, which begs investigation, is how Trump was possibly trying to weaken Ukraine's security, making it a plum ripe for picking by his chum Vladimir Putin, one of the "strong leaders" he so admires.

2: The Mueller Report was a damning document that revealed Trump tried up to 10 times to squelch the investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential elec-

Mike Knaak
Editor



The most famous instance of sign-stealing happened on Bobby Thomson's legendary Shot Heard 'Round the World that clinched the National League pennant for the Giants on Oct. 3, 1951.

The incident is reported in "Echoing Green: The Untold Story of Bobby Thomson, Ralph Branca and the Shot Heard Round the World." Giants position coach Herman Franks used a telescope from the Giants clubhouse during a number of late-season games, including that one to relay the catcher's signs. A buzzer was set up to alert someone in the Giants bullpen of the pitch call, and he would in turn relay it to the batter.

MLB's most recent advance in technology, the video review, opened the door to the Astros' skullduggery. With the review rule, TV monitors appeared in dugouts and clubhouses, making sign-stealing, thanks to telephoto lenses on center field cameras, easy.

Generally, technology has not improved sports, for either the players or the fans. There are only two technological advances that have helped sports: lights so games could be played at night, allowing working people to enjoy games without skipping work, and jet travel replacing trains, bringing baseball to cities more distant than one-day train rides on the East Coast.

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



tion. Trump's top "legal" fixer, U.S. Attorney William Barr, released a candy-coated version of the Report that too many gullibles were eager to believe.

3: A bumbling "foreign policy" based on personal whims and tantrum outbursts. The Donald's charm offensive is long on offensive, short on charm. It is, in a word, dangerous.

4: Trump's bad-mouthing of ObamaCare and legal maneuvers to deep-six it. Whatever happened to Trump's repeated promise of the Best Health Care in the History of the Whole Wide World?

5: Insidious attacks on the Department of Justice, the FBI, the State Department and intelligence agencies, sowing discord and undermining trust in the institutions we so depend upon for our – and the world's – security.

6: A total lack of understanding of the U.S. Constitution and even an outright contempt for it. Kings hate that messy tangle called democracy. It gets in their way so they try to rig (or abolish) elections.

7: The Wall. We need immigration reform and control, but this is not it. The Chinese, with their "Great Wall," learned that lesson thousands of years ago.

8: The vicious cruelty of separating children and parents at the border, aided and abetted by one of Trump's most senior advisors, the sinister immigrant-hater Stephen

When the Metrodome replaced Met Stadium, Minnesota sports fans suffered their biggest technological failure. I photographed Bud Grant's Vikings outside – in the mud, snow, rain, cold and heat. Photos from those games captured the essence of football and the Vikings' home-field advantage. Then the games moved indoors to the sterile Metrodome where it was always 68 degrees, partly cloudy and the plastic grass was always green. The only worse place to watch sports is Tampa Bay Rays' Tropicana Field, a gloomy indoor dungeon in the Sunshine State.

After the sign-stealing scandal, MLB is again turning to technology to improve the game and speed up the action. This season, some minor league teams will experiment with an automated strike zone to replace calls by human umpires. Instead of a three-dimensional pentagon, the strike zone would be a two-dimensional space at the front of the plate. Umpires with earpieces will call balls and strikes based on ball-tracking technology. The ump's only real job will be to call "safe" or "out" in the rare play at the plate.

Modern society aims to eliminate all risk, errors and unfairness through regulations and government policy. What's desirable for civil rights and justice is out of place in baseball.

I've got a better idea. Get rid of all the technology – except the lights and the jet planes – and just play the game. No more delays for video review, no more TVs in the dugout, no more ball-tracking tech. Just play ball. It's a kids' game, play it that way.

Miller.

9: The sabotage of NATO. At summit meetings, Trump strutted around like Mussolini with a sneering pout on his face among NATO nation leaders, making a fool of himself and alienating allies we need.

10: Trump's ripping up the climate-change accords, combined with his reckless dismantling of environmental regulations in tune with the big carbon-energy honchos.

11: His massive debt-producing tax cut for the Super Rich. It was the old trickle-down trick perpetrated against the have-nots ever since the 1980s "Greed is Good" Era. Trump bragged to glitzy guests at Mar-a-Lago that he'd just made them a lot of money.

12: King Donald's grotesque narcissism. Everything He does (or tries to do) is the Best, the Biggest, the Greatest in History. In mental hospitals there are unfortunate folks suffering from delusions of grandeur far more realistic than The Donald's bloated daydreams.

13: OK, here's where Trump gets a nod. The economy is doing well, although in a lopsided way. There's more to a great country than "strong economy." A truly great nation is comprised first and foremost of strong, wise, compassionate, moral leadership.

So, folks, put on those caps, the ones that say, "Make America Sane Again." Then get ready to vote.

Meantime, Dear Leader, please consider taking a quick bow now for your strong economy, then grab your crown and scurry off to Fantasy Island where you can play wannabe king all by yourself to your heart's content.

Letter to the editor

An open letter
to Chief Justice Roberts,
U.S. Senators

Leona Wieland, Sartell

The statement needed for decorum in the Senate Chambers was noted. How about holding responsible those who tell lies?

Repeating the lie about WMD got us into war with Iraq in 2003. The costs in money and lives are reprehensible: \$1.1 trillion, 4,000 American and 200,000 civilian lives. Do not allow lies to continue today.

Specifically, I refer to the lie about whether Republicans and/or President Trump were

allowed to attend the House impeachment inquiry in the House lower chambers. To say they weren't, as the lead lawyer for President Trump, Pat Cipollone, said in opening statements is a lie. Thank goodness Adam Schiff made note of it, but I fear it and other lies may be said again and again. Will you allow our democracy to crumble with such less than honorable behavior?

Wake up, senators, to Ladies Liberty, Truth and Justice. Take off your earmuffs and blinders to the everyday reality of indecency and disregard in private and public squares. There have been numerous character assassinations. Do you fear that you too, senators, will be the

next one called out?

We send our military might forth to protect national security. Service personnel willingly give their lives to uphold democratic values, principles and laws. What in good conscience can you, our leaders do? You held up your hands and signed your names to be impartial, to support and defend the Constitution. Tell us, your children and grandchildren that you will choose the better way. Honor truth, bringing light into the darkness of our republic and put a STOP to lies. Lead responsibly to save our democracy.

In recent days as leaders seem oblivious to truth and justice as guiding principles, it is sad public discourse in meet-

ings and courtrooms exemplify a loss of civility, honor, kindness and goodness. What's to come of our country if we fail to uphold liberty and justice for all?

What's ahead since U.S. Senators failed to get enough votes for witnesses and documents in the impeachment of President Trump?

Was it a fair trial?

Were Senators purposely delaying &/or denying truth?

Are Senators afraid of backlash for being conscientious?

If acting out of fear, is it possible it can be replaced with love? There is a consistent thought that Christians outnumber others in our country. If so, actions need to be in line

with beliefs. "Love God and Neighbor as yourself."

"There are only two emotions: love and fear. All positive emotions come from love, all negative emotions from fear. From love flows happiness, contentment, peace and joy. From fear comes anger, hate, anxiety and guilt. It's true there are only two primary emotions, love and fear. But it's more accurate to say there is only love or fear, for we cannot feel these two emotions together, at exactly the same time. They're opposites. If we're in fear, we are not in a place of love. When we're in a place of love, we cannot be in a place of fear."

– Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

People

Three area students have been named to the dean's list at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse for the fall semester. The students are **Hannah Yackley** of St. Stephen and **Neal Benson** and **Kaleb Myhrwold** of Sartell. To be eligible, students must have earned not less than a 3.5 semester grade-point average and carried a minimum of 12 credits.

Megan Bachman of Sartell graduated from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. Bachman received a master's degree in physician assistant studies during the ceremony on Dec. 14.

Austin Sura of Sartell has been named to the fall dean's list in the College of Engineering at the University of Notre Dame (Indiana). Students who achieve this honor represent the top 30 percent of students in their college.

Four Sartell students have been named to the fall semester dean's list at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The students are **Elizabeth Botz, Nicole Lindmeier, Jordan Mareck** and **Emma Zenzen**.

Eleven Sartell students have been named to the fall semester dean's list at the College of St. Scholastica. Dean's

list members have achieved a 3.75 grade-point average or higher. The students are **Riley Ahrndt, Lauren Buchholz, Diana Deuel, Emma Janu, Andrew Lakmann, Kelli Loscheider, Madeline Meier, Rebecca Myrum, Tonya Paul, Lynette Schreifels** and **Sarah Symanietz**.

Taylor Buske and **Anna Ellis** of Sartell have been named to the fall semester dean's list at Iowa State University, Ames. Students named to the list must have earned a grade-point average of at least 3.50 while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Five Sartell students have

been named to the University of North Dakota-Grand Forks dean's list for fall semester. To qualify, a student's grade-point average must be in the top 15 percent. The students are **Mckenzie Fossen, Anna Miller, Katelyn Stalboerger, Patrick Stalboerger** and **Tyree Thompson**.

Emily Baxa of Sartell, a student at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, has earned a spot on the dean's list for the fall semester. The dean's list is comprised of students who have achieved a grade-point average of 3.50 or higher while carrying a minimum of 12 graded hours. Baxa is a senior ele-

mentary education major and is the daughter of Diana and Donald Baxa.

Morgan Anderson of Sartell was named to the fall dean's list at Augustana University, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The list recognizes full-time students who have a minimum of 12 credit hours with grade-point averages at 3.5 or higher.

Madeline Thieschafer of Sartell was named to the fall dean's list at Hamline University, St. Paul. Students who achieve this honor hold a 3.5 grade-point average or higher while maintaining a full course load.

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Card

from page 7

together, our son Caden, who is in Sartell Middle School, and Jacob act just like they're both in middle school. I often say I have three children – Caden, Evie and Jacob. But I love it."

Jacob is an electrician for Stearns County. Stefanie is a founder and co-owner of Hike Hoppers, a hiking/exploring group of women.

"Jacob," she said, "has an amazing ability to create – drawing, woodworking. He even carved a bunch of candles for me years ago. And he is so funny, always keeping me and the kids laughing doing whimsical things."

Stefanie recalled the time they were dating, early on, when Jacob picked her up at home and drove her around one winter day after blindfolding her for a surprise. In his yard, he took the blindfold off and she instantly beheld a huge Valentine heart he'd "drawn" on the snow with colored water.

Her heart, of course, melted.

In many ways, Stefanie's personality is so different from Jacob's.

"I was always so, so serious, working two jobs, always look-



contributed photo

This is a copy of the 1986 Valentine card Jacob Rothstein signed "Love, Jacob" and gave to his sweetheart, Stefanie Krebs, in a kindergarten class in Albany.

ing for a sense of direction and accomplishment," she said. "I was a bit rigid and very organized. He was always filled with humor and that whimsical creativity. But that is good because we balance each other nicely."

The Rothstein family loves to travel and take hiking trips.

In Hawaii in late January, the couple enjoyed sunrise hikes along steep volcanic forests and soaked up nature's beauty at every step.

"Life can be all about simplicity," Stefanie said. "About being in the moment, opening up to what's around you."

'Stuart Little' is district book selection

Kindergarten through fourth-grade students learned Jan. 31 that this year's book for February's Love to Read Month is "Stuart Little" by E.B. White.

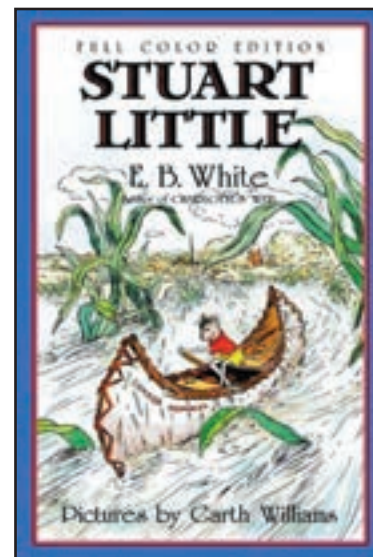
Copies of the book were given to students at Oak Ridge and Pine Meadow Elementary schools. Students will follow the adventures of Stuart Little each day by participating in literacy activities and building-wide trivia.

The One District, One Book event is funded by the Sartell-St. Stephen Education Foundation and Oak Ridge and Pine Meadow Elementary parent teacher

organizations. For more information about One District, One Book, visit the "Sartell-St. Stephen One District, One Book" Facebook page or follow it in your Sartell-St. Stephen Schools mobile app.

Students, staff, families and community members are encouraged to spend the month reading, according to the school district.

"Stuart Little" is a 1945 children's novel and is widely recognized as a classic in children's literature. It is a realistic fantasy about a mouse-like human boy named Stuart Little.



People

Thieschafer and Benjamin Yelle.

Forty-five Sartell students have been named to the fall semester dean's list at St. Cloud State University. To be eligible for the honor, students must have a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher. The students are **Mikayla Abbott, Nikita Ashirov, Courtney Beck, Casey Becker, Riley Buck, Kyle Cieilinski, Tyler Cronquist, Cara Czech, Ahmed Doudin, Kyle Erickson, Jordan Giulio, Paige Grabow, Alexis Haas, Angelica Hagen, Christine Henning, Anna Hince, Seth Jungels, Emmitt Kotaska, Anthony Kuefler, Anna Lehto, Amanda Lengyel, Michael Lindstrom, Kalli Marthaler, Kayleen Martins, Alex Mayer, Jackson Miller, Christen Neil, Courtney Olund, Taylor Pearson, Cera Perrault, Darien Prow, Gregory Renner, Laurie Robles Ramirez, Gabrielle Schlageck, Nathan Schmidt, Megan Sieben, Aaron Soderholm, Addison Stavos, Katherine Strand, Alexis Streit, Rachel Tazarek, Jennifer**

Thompson, Jarrett Weispfenig, Marisa Wood and Morgan Zakrajshek.

Thirty-one Sartell students have been named to the St. Cloud Technical & Community College fall semester president's list and dean's list. President's list students earn a 4.0 grade-point average and dean's list students earn a grade-point average from 3.5 to 3.99.

The president's list students are **Tyler Anderson, Brandon Blotnicki, Jason Conley, Tatum Decker, Haley Fladung, Brandon Hejhal, Thomas Lee, William Lenneman, Lois Miranda Perez, Jennifer Morissette, Janey Peterson, Jasmine Samuelson, Treydon South, Jarron Walther, Amanda Woods and Kaitland Zott.**

The dean's list students are **Brian Amundson, Hannah Bous, Haley Chisum, Samantha Clark, Shelby George, Alexis Hollermann, Jaeger Johnson, Jason Johnson, Pise-thrainsey Khorn, Timothy Koopman, Mason LeMieur, Susanah O'Donoghue, Yeli Ouattara, Amber Schafer and Alexis Senn.**

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Newsleaders editor wins award

Newsleaders Editor Mike Knaak was honored with an award in the annual Minnesota Newspaper Association contest.

Knaak won second place for columnists in the contest among the state's 300 weekly and daily newspapers.

The award was for a selection of columns that included the conclusion of the Wetterling case, Rep. Tom Emmer's rising status in the Republican Party and local women who

have led the quest for gender equality in sports.

There were more than 3,900 entries in the contest, judged by journalists in Indiana.

The awards were presented Jan. 30 during the association's annual convention in Brooklyn Park.



Knaak



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