

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, April 3, 2020
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Est. 1995

Town Crier

Governor to deliver State of State address

Gov. Tim Walz recently announced he will deliver his second State of the State address on Sunday, April 5, beginning at 7 p.m. The address will be delivered live from the Governor's Residence and can be watched on YouTube Live.

"COVID-19 presents an unprecedented hardship to our state, but Minnesotans always rise to a challenge," Walz said. "I look forward to the opportunity to speak directly to Minnesotans during this uncertain time."

Do you like to sew?

St. Cloud Hospital is in need of surgical caps for staff use. Volunteers are asked to assist with assembling and donating the caps to help meet this urgent need. We hope you consider this unique request as an opportunity to volunteer your talent during this challenging time.

For the pattern and instructions, contact Christine Midthun at 320-251-2700 ext. 50993, Christine.Midthun@centracare.com or Mary Krippner at 320-223-7991 or mkrippner@united-wayhelp.org.

Place of Hope seeks donations

The Place of Hope is working hard with those experiencing homelessness during the coronavirus pandemic. Donations are being accepted for food and financial assistance. Place of Hope, 511 Ninth Ave. N., St. Cloud, MN 56303.

Newsleaders seeks GoFundMe donations

During these turbulent times, advertising support has dwindled. The Newsleaders wants to continue providing up-to-the-minute local coverage both on our website and in print. Please help support the Newsleaders by viewing/contributing to our GoFundMe page on Facebook. Thank you to our first few contributors! Any amount is greatly appreciated!

INSERTS:
RE/MAX Results -
John Tragiai

Spring Sartell-St. Stephen
Resource Guide

Class sizes, school day times set

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

The start and end times for next year's classes as well as the number of sections of each class and class sizes were approved by the Sartell-St. Stephen school board at its March 23 meeting.

In what will become the standard at least for the near future, the Sartell-St. Stephen school board conducted its meeting via video conference March 23 and discussed the district's coronavirus plans and other school business.

School board Chair Jeremy

For an update on distance learning, see page 9.

Snoberger, Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert and Business Services Specialist Josh Bentley gathered in the board room at the District Service Center and connected via videoconference with the rest of the board and administrators.

When school starts next year, the last step in the district's massive building and class realignment takes place.

When school starts in the fall, the number of teachers and specialists will increase by 12.37 full-time equivalent positions. Six of those positions are new classroom teachers in grades kindergarten through five. There will be an increase of 4.35 special education positions.

Class • page 2



photo by Mike Knaak

The Sartell-St. Stephen school board conducted its March 23 meeting via videoconference with Board Chair Jeremy Snoberger (foreground) and Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert in the district office and other board members and administrators participating remotely.



contributed photo

Keeping their distance

Paige Rademacher of Sartell, with help from her dad Eric and her brother Ethan, built these appropriately spaced snowmen on Sunday, March 29, after the snowfall Saturday night.

Students worried graduation could be canceled

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Lauren Sip and Alyssa Gehrke of Sartell are just two of hundreds of high-school seniors who are disappointed that a graduation ceremony might be canceled due to the virus crisis.

However, school officials are still not able to determine with certainty if – or what kind of – ceremony could take place.

If the ceremony is indeed canceled, it would be an unprecedented outcome – almost unimaginable, considering the fact that graduation is one of the most cherished rituals in a lifetime.

"Yes, it's annoying," said Sip. "We've been going to school with so many of these people ever since we were in kindergarten. It's really frustrating. All my friends are disappointed, to say the least."

Many seniors, like Sip, are just assuming there won't be a graduation ceremony.

Sip, who will turn 18 on May 9, is – like so many other people – now homebound, doing schoolwork via internet connections with her teachers.

"I spend about two or three hours a day doing that," she said. "Working on school stuff, reading books, writing some stuff online."



Gehrke

Sip

Like most teenagers, Sip said she loves to "hang out with my friends." But that is all but impossible to do in these weeks of social distancing. Instead, she and her friends communicate via social media, phone calls and sometimes by Skyping.

Sip is the daughter of Rob and

Volunteers sew masks

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

During the virus crises, there are so many needs to be met here, there and everywhere, but fortunately there are many people stepping forward to fill those needs.

One of them is Lori Dornberg, the long-time teacher of family-and-consumer science at Sartell Middle School. For years, Dornberg also taught a sewing class, and her sewing skills are coming in handy these days as she sews protective face masks for St. Cloud Hospital.

Dornberg is quick to point out that she is only one of many

Sew • page 2

Amy Sip. Amy works for Granite City Armored Car and can still leave home for work. Rob, however, is able to work from home for his job with the Red River Watershed Management Board.

"I do get bored sometimes," Sip said. "During the day, it's just my dad and me and our dog, Coco. Dad and I play board games and cards. And I love being with Coco. We (she and her father) take Coco for walks. We sit on the deck. And I go for runs. I also watch a lot of Netflix shows. Right now I'm watching Grey's Anatomy, the series."

Sip's big hope is that school might open for a day or two

Students • page 3

Class

from front page

tions. Class sizes will be smaller than the last two school years because of the levy passed this past year.

Oak Ridge Early Learning Center will serve 400 to 450 students in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. There will be five sections of up to 12 3- and 4-year-olds that meet two days a week. There will be two sections of up to 16 4- and 5-year-olds that will meet three days a week. Eight sections of up to 16 4- and 5-year-olds will meet five days a week. There will be 15 sections of kindergarten with class sizes of 20 to 21 students. Student start time will be 8 a.m. and the school day will end at 2:30 p.m. Jason Mielke will be the principal.

At **Pine Meadow Primary School**, there will be 14 sections of first-graders and 13 sections of second-graders with class sizes of about 22 students. Start time will be 7:50 a.m. and the school day will end at 2:20 p.m. Sara Nelson will be the prin-

icipal for the building of about 604 students.

At **Riverview Intermediate School** (the former middle school) there will be 12 sections of third-, fourth- and fifth-graders. Class size will be about 25 students in the school of 925 students. Start time will be 8:10 a.m. and the school day will end at 2:40 p.m. Zachary Dingmann will be the principal.

At **Sartell Middle School** (the remodeled former high school), Principal Laura Arndt will welcome 975 students. There will be 12 sections each of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders with between 25 and 27 students per class. Start time will be 8:50 a.m. and the school day will end at 3:35 p.m.

At **Sartell High School**, there will be 1,375 students in grades nine through 12. The district expects 363 ninth-graders, 364 10th-graders, 328 11th-graders and 330 12th-graders. Start time will be 8:55 a.m. and the school day will end at 3:40 p.m.

At all schools, buses will arrive 10 minutes earlier than start times and leave 10 minutes after the school day ends.

Sew

from front page

people making the masks. Another, she noted, is Ann Doy-scher-Domres, the Sartell school district’s Community Education adult program coordinator. Yet another, she noted, is Mady Bertsch, a Sartell ninth-grader.

Dornberg’s mother-in-law in Underwood also makes the masks, as does her mother and other women who live at Wood-crest of Country Manor in St. Joseph. And there are many more mask-makers whose names Dornberg does not know.

One of the sixth-grade teachers at Sartell Middle School, Gary Rosin, has a daughter who is a nurse at St. Cloud Hospital. She lamented the urgent need to get more face masks, and Rosin, knowing Dornberg’s sewing skills, mentioned that need to her. While exploring online, she found a face-mask pattern on the website of the Courier Press newspaper in Evansville, Indiana. One of Dornberg’s hobbies is quilting, so fortunately she had lots and lots of cloth materials stored away in her quilting stash. For the elastic face straps, Rosin managed to find some to give to her.

In one recent weekend, Dornberg made 65 face masks, which she gave to Rosin to give to his daughter, who took them to the hospital. The face masks are not meant for doctors or nurses on the front line – those dealing up close and hands-on with infected patients. Instead,



contributed photo

Lori Dornberg sews the edges of face-mask panels on her at-home sewing machine. Like so many others, Dornberg is self-isolating but is able to teach her Sartell Middle School students via online courses.

they are meant for the general population, such as people coming to the hospital for emergency help.

To make the masks, Dornberg first cuts out 6-inch by 9-inch rectangles of tightly woven cotton and flannel cloth. Using her sewing machine, she sews them together with the straps sticking out, then sews two rows of pleats on the shorter side.

“It takes about 15 minutes to do one of them,” she said. “It’s just a little something that makes me feel as if I’m making a difference.”

Dornberg is also the academic extension coordinator for Sartell Middle School. As the spelling-bee advisor, she was eager to go to the Twin Cities last Friday for the state competition. But, like so many other events these days, it was canceled.

“It’s so unfortunate for the middle school kids who worked so hard,” she said. “I have teacher friends all over the country who are dealing with the same kinds of things.”

And like people everywhere, Dornberg is homebound,



contributed photo

This row of safety masks was made by Lori Dornberg from left-over quilting materials. Dornberg is an expert in sewing, a subject she taught for years at Sartell Middle School. She donates the masks to St. Cloud Hospital, along with many other local mask-makers.

self-isolating and teaching her middle school students online. At home (she lives between Cold Spring and Avon) she enjoys good company – her husband, Randy, a cabinet maker who works in his shop in the backyard; and daughter Sarah, a veterinary-clinic employee who lives in Superior, Wisconsin. and who is currently staying with her parents as she recovers from knee surgery.

“We’ve been playing a lot of cribbage games,” said Dornberg, who has also been doing a lot of sewing.

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(formerly Index 53)

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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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Students

from front page

at the end of May if the virus crisis breaks by then, even if a formal graduation ceremony has to be canceled. That way, she’ll be able to see and talk with all the classmates she’s known since kindergarten before they all graduate and move on – many to other states, other colleges, other opportunities and new careers.

Sip, whose favorite school subject is algebra, is going to study at Mankato State University and has not yet selected a major topic of study.

Alyssa Gehrke

Alyssa Gehrke is also concerned about graduation.

“I am worried, but I really hope it (some form of graduation) still happens,” she said. “So many of us have been together in schools for 13 years so maybe we can do something – at least some kind of get-together.”

Alyssa is the daughter of Kent and Cheryl Gehrke. Her mother is a professor of nursing at Rasmussen Business College and now teaches virtual classes via internet. Her father is a State Farm agent who can still work in his St. Cloud office.

Alyssa has two brothers, an older one named Alex, a younger one named Aidan and a little sister, Lily. Alex is now a freshman at Rasmussen. The others are still at home. She also enjoys the family’s two pets – Buck the dog and Jazzy the cat.

With the family mostly house-

bound, social distancing, they’ve been playing a lot of video games and card games, she noted.

On March 30, Gehrke, like all students in the area, participated in classes at home via video conferences. The classes were media literacy, speech and painting.

“They were interesting, and it was nice to see teachers and classmates again and to interact with them, if only by video,” she said.

Gehrke plans to become an elementary teacher.

“I would like to tell all my classmates that I hope we get to see each other again, at least for awhile, for one last time,” she said. “I also hope it (virus crisis) gets easier soon for everyone – students, teachers and staff.”

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.

- March 17**
7:45 p.m. Welfare check. Eighth Street N. A complainant reported they were worried about a friend who said their mother emotionally abused them. An officer followed up with a phone call and spoke with the individual who agreed to stay away from the mother for the remainder of the evening. The officer also suggested thinking about alternative living situations.
- March 18**
6 a.m. Foot patrol. Pinecone Road S. An officer on duty performed foot patrol around a business as they opened. No issues.

- March 19**
4:30 p.m. Trespassing. Bantam Road. A person reported that there was an unwanted individual on their property with their son. Officers spoke with both the son and the unwanted individual as well as the complainant about the issues. No citations were given.
- March 20**
1:30 p.m. Extra patrol. CR 120. A manager of a business requested extra officer presence due to people lining up outside the front doors of the business. Individuals were getting upset because of the high demand and short-term supply of various goods. Officers have been patrolling the area when they are not on high-priority calls.
- March 21**
2:30 p.m. Pinecone Road N. and Seventh Street N. Officers were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash with no reported injuries. Officers observed no injuries but both cars had to be towed. An officer assisted in the exchange of the two drivers’ in-

- formation.
- March 22**
12:30 a.m. Assist person. Seventh Street N. A person who was resting complained about person being intimidating. The complainant said they felt threatened and unsafe because the other person was being verbally abusive. Officers spoke with both parties and advised them to leave one another alone.
- March 23**
3 p.m. Business assist. Connecticut Avenue S. A healthcare professional had reservations about allowing an elderly client to drive after observing memory issues. An officer was dispatched to the business and made arrangements for Care Cab to drive the elderly individual home. The officer also arranged for another party to drive the elderly individual’s vehicle home too.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

2020 Sixth Avenue SE Improvements
St. Stephen, Minnesota
SEH No. STSTE 147974
SAP No. 073-594-002

Notice is hereby given that Online Bids will be received by the City of St. Stephen until 11 a.m. Tuesday, April 28, 2020, via QuestCDN at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council chambers, located at St. Stephen City Hall located at 2 Sixth Ave. SE, St. Stephen, MN 56375, for the furnishing of all labor and material for the construction of the 2020 Sixth Avenue SE Improvements.

Major quantities for the Work include the following:

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8,939	CY	Subgrade Excavation
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2,237	SY	Bituminous Driveway Restoration
16,540	SY	Full Depth Reclamation
5,404	TON	Type SP Bituminous Mixtures
750	LF	RC Pipe Culvert (12- through 33-Inch)
	LF	6” Perforated PE Pipe Drain
1,578	LF	Salvage and Install Fence
2,496	LF	Filter Berm Type 4 (Topsoil)
12,200	CY	Common Topsoil Borrow (LV)
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For this project, bids will ONLY be received and accepted via the online electronic bid service QuestCDN.com. To access the electronic bid form, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through Quest CDN for bids to be accepted. Bids shall be completed according to the Bidding Requirements prepared by Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH®) dated March 4, 2020.

The Bidding Documents may be seen at the Issuing Office of Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. located at 1200 25th Ave. S., P.O. Box 1717, St. Cloud, MN 56302-1717, 320-229-4300.

The Bidding Documents may be viewed for no cost at <http://www.sehinc.com> by selecting the Project Bid Information link at the bottom of the page and the View Plans option from the menu at the top of the selected project page.

Digital image copies of the Bidding Documents are available at <http://www.sehinc.com> for a fee of \$30. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the PROJECT BID INFORMATION link and by entering eBidDoc™ Number 6959254 on the SEARCH PROJECTS page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com.

In addition to digital plans, paper copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from Docunet Corp. located at 2435 Xenium Lane N., Plymouth, MN 55441 (763-475-9600) for a fee of \$100.

Bid security in the amount of 5 percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

A Contractor responding to these Bidding Documents must submit to the City/Owner a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance with each of the minimum criteria in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

This Work shall be subject to minimum wages and labor standards in accordance with the State of Minnesota.

Bids shall be directed to the City Clerk, securely sealed and endorsed upon the outside wrapper, “BID FOR 2020 SIXTH AVENUE SE IMPROVEMENTS, ST. STEPHEN, MN, SEH NO. STSTE 147974, SAP NO. 073-594-002.”

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract in the best interests of the Owner.

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People

WhiteBox Marketing recently accepted five 2020 American Advertising Awards for work completed during the 2019 calendar year. The annual American Advertising Awards are hosted by the American Advertising Federation of Central Minnesota and recognizes the talent of local marketers and advertisers who submit their work for professional judging. **Carrie Karki** of Sartell is president and founder of WhiteBox Marketing.

BankVista of Sartell was one of 40 Minnesota banks recognized by the Minnesota Bankers Association for their community involvement. The honored banks donated more than \$3.1 million to their communities and worked with an average of 45 organizations each in the past year. These organizations included the American Red Cross, Meals on Wheels, United Way, Salvation Army, American Cancer Society, Girl Scouts, Junior Achievement, Feed My Starving Children, local schools, churches and non-profits. The 2,183 employees from these banks dedicated more than 92,500 hours at a variety of volunteer events or programs in 2019.

Three Sartell students Noah were named to the fall semester dean's list at Bemidji State University. They are the following: **Noah Gaffy, Jarret Janu** and **Gabrielle Linn**. To be eligible, students must be enrolled for at least 12 credits and earn a 3.5 grade-point average during the



David Zhang, a Sartell High School junior, is the first student to win the Drake Physics Prize for two years in a row. The Drake Physics Prize is a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. The prize includes a personal trophy, a Certificate of Merit and a traveling trophy displayed at the winner's school. The test is primarily given to students in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota and select areas in Illinois, Texas and Colorado. Zhang is a state-qualifying swimmer and member of the Knowledge Bowl and Math League teams.



contributed photo

The White Box Marketing team: (from left) Carrie Karki, owner; Rachael Witt; Alison Fischer; Abbey Stemper; and Jayme Donovan.

semester.

Two Sartell students were named to the fall semester president's list honors at Bemidji State University in Bemidji. They are **Ryley Emslander** and **EvaLynn Jundt**. To be eligible, students must be enrolled for

at least 12 credits and earn a perfect 4.0 grade-point average during the semester.

Two Sartell Youth Hockey teams qualified for the Minnesota Hockey's State Tournaments on March 13-15. Sartell's **PeeWee A** team and the

Storm'n Sabres Girls' 15UB team qualified.

Kayla Chisum of Sartell received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall.

Nicole Lindmeier of Sartell was awarded a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in December.



contributed photo

PeeWee A team: (front row, from left) Jack Michaud and Adam Holien; (middle row) Caleb Thompson, Jameson Schmitz, Shaun Paulson, Carson Andel, KJ Sauer, Drew Bollinger and Owen Oxton; and (back row) Jake Volker, Landon Hilger, Caden Vos, Tanner Burris and Brayden Klande. Coaches (not pictured) are Kent Sauer, Pat Michaud, Will McCabe and Chad Holien.



contributed photo

Storm'n Sabres 15UB (front row, from left) goalies Abby Hendrickson and Lauren VanVickle; (second row) Hannah Markgraf, Evelyn Buiceag-Arama, Ellena Ashby and Alyssa Valdez; (third row) Hannah Pickett, McKenzie Kahre, Katie Corrigan, Alison Andruschak, Brayley VanDenBerg and Emily VanVickle; and (back row) Head Coach Jason VanDenBerg, Alexis Marshall, Addy Bultema, Ella Berger, Megan Hess, Elizabeth Krueger and Brooke Pogatchnik.

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Couples, Money and Honesty

It's easy to slip into the day-to-day without setting clear, defined financial goals with your partner on a regular basis.

According to a recent study published by Business Insider, during the first and third years of marriage, money matters were the most commonly reported source of marital arguments and that couples with high amounts of debt generally have lower levels of satisfaction in their marriages. Whether you're just starting off in your marriage or have been married for decades, it is critical to have routine "money talks" with your partner. Money can be a touchy subject, but one that must be broached with honesty and respect with anyone with whom you intend to spend and build a life.

TELL EVERYTHING, HIDE NOTHING

Honesty is always the best policy — and never more so than with money. You and your partner should be up front about major expenditures, all debt and any investments and savings. Remember that a vast majority of people carry some form of debt. Without honesty about what debt is out there, you will never get out from under the burden. Even if you



do, the victory won't be half as sweet if you can't share it.

RECOGNIZE RED FLAGS
Issues such as credit card abuse, frequently missed payments or avoidance of large debts are cause for major concern. Recognize that these

red flags have nothing to do with the type of financial responsibilities your partner might have, and work together on their management. Identify these issues from the beginning and you won't be blindsided when a bank or credit lender identifies them.

WHAT'S YOURS IS MINE
This is quite literal in the financial aspect of marriage. Even if you choose not to share a checking account and retain a certain amount of financial freedom from one another, you will need to work together to set and achieve

financial goals, such as retirement and buying a home. Your partner's debt will impact you and vice versa. By being honest with your partner, you can create hypothetical future scenarios and discuss how you want to approach them.





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Food truck challenge includes more than cooking

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

There's more to running a food truck than just what's cooking. Sartell High School's culinary arts students are learning how much more.

Teacher Joseph Vanek led students through not only menu planning, but marketing, budgeting and hiring employees.

Before the coronavirus pandemic upset the school schedule, the students' efforts were to end with a Food Truck Challenge event Thursday, March 19, with 50 or so judges "buying" the food.

The class started with market research followed by a "shark tank" pitch that included menu ideas and price ranges. Each truck team needed to come up with five menu items and five drink items as well as a name for their truck.

Next each group applied for a bank loan taking into account the truck, food and equipment costs.

Marketing included designing and building a model truck, logo, menu, advertising and market overview research. Students were also challenged to consider how to hire employees, their job descriptions, pay and supervision.

Junior Amber Teer and her group produced a video based on the opening credits of the 1970s TV show "The Brady Bunch" to promote their food truck The Brunchy Bunch.



photos by Mike Knaak

Annika Orjansen tries her hand at flipping the finished crepe cheered on by classmates.

To see The Brunchy Bunch video and other videos from the class, see this story online at thenewsleaders.com.

"I got the idea while brainstorming with the rest of my group and they helped me tape and record the videos we needed and from there I just

looked up a few YouTube tutorials because I never really used iMovie," Teer said.

Before the food shutdown, the teams also planned a shopping trip to Coborn's to buy food for the challenge where the judges would be given fake money to buy the food. The food truck with the most profit would be the winner.

"Unfortunately we were unable to actually make our

foods for people to try and have people see all the work we had done over a few weeks but it was definitely a good experience and it was fun to learn more about what goes into making a successful food truck," Teer said.

There were 26 students in the nine-week class, which met in the culinary lab, a window-lined kitchen and workspace in the middle of Sartell High School. Students

passing to classes and working in the commons can keep an eye on what's cooking.

"I enjoyed everything about the class," said Cali Keller, a senior. "We cooked about three times a week, we also cooked a wide variety of things from pasta to cookies. I learned so many things about food safety, and cooking in general."

Vanek said two types of

Food truck • page 9

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Dane Cagle (left) and Austin Legatt mix ingredients for crepes.

Pet-Specific First-Aid Kit

You may already know the importance of keeping a first-aid kit around. Since animals are naturally curious and act on instincts, it can be lifesaving to have an emergency kit specifically for their needs, especially if you are far from home and medical care.

Many of the recommended items to keep at hand for your furry friends are also featured in household first-aid kits for humans. It's easy to purchase a general kit then add a few animal-specific items.

Look at these great tips from the United States Humane Society when creating a first-aid kit for your pet.

SUPPLIES

Your basic first-aid kits will have crucial supplies for both people and pets. Some should include: hydrogen peroxide, absorbent-gauze pads, disposable gloves and antiseptic wipes. Don't forget these pet-specific items as recommended by The Humane Society of The United States.

- Pack an animal first-aid book, with general information on how to tend to minor emergencies.
- Carry along self-cling bandages; they will adhere to itself without interfering with pet fur.
- It's important to have a muzzle or strips of cloth to prevent biting if an animal is in distress. Avoid using them if your pet is vomiting, choking or having difficulty breathing.

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTATION

In addition to carrying the



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necessary supplies, you should also have important documentation about your pet. Keep a list of phone numbers featuring the veterinarian's office, nearest emergency clinic and poison-control hotline.

You should also have documents proving your pet has been properly vaccinated and a current photograph in case they become lost. Remember to keep all documentation in a waterproof container to avoid becoming damaged.

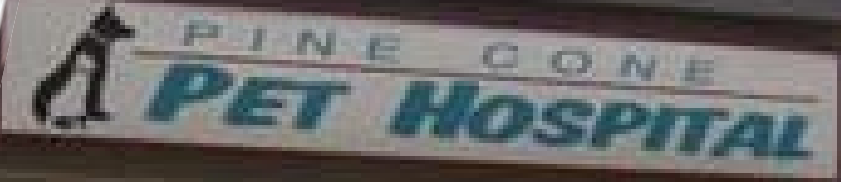
MAINTENANCE

As time goes on, you will likely adjust the first-aid kit you have built. Keep a close eye on expiration dates of items like medicine or cleaning solutions. Another reason your kit will change is due to

your pet aging. As they get older, you will probably need to add additional medications. Explain your plan of building a kit to your veterinarian to find out if you can purchase extra prescriptions.

Pine Cone Pet Hospital

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Lunches provided during break

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

A steady stream of cars rolled through the Sartell Middle School parking lot Monday, March 23, as people stopped by to pick up lunches for students during the district's spring break.

The district has worked with area businesses to provide pickup lunches for students who need them. Brandon Testa, House of Pizza/Pacific Wok, organized the effort. Lunches can be picked up from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Door 20, Sartell Middle School. Other businesses supporting the lunch effort are Bernick's Beverage, Performance Food Service, Mahowald Insurance, Laraway Financial and Sartell Pediatrics.

On March 23, 255 meals were prepared.



photo by Mike Knaak

Kristina Leppanen rushes lunch bags to waiting cars. Leppanen is youth program coordinator for Community Education.

Virus precautions affect shelter animals too

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The ongoing virus crisis affects just about every human being on the planet, but it is also affecting animals and the people who care so much about them.

Locally, at the Tri-County Humane Society, the good news is that – despite any gloom and doom – a “fair number” of people are still adopting animals, according to Tauna Quimby, manager of fund development for TCHS.

The not-so-good news, she added, is the stresses and strains on society at large have a ricochet effect on the workers and the animals at the TCHS headquarters in east St. Cloud.

Quimby noted the current concerns:

- No surgeries can be performed in the TCHS surgical building.

- Normally, there are 200 volunteers per month who help part time at the shelter, doing tasks that range from cleaning cages and socializing the animals to paperwork and doing

laundry. But after the coronavirus set off worldwide and local alarms and calls for social distancing, the TCHS management told volunteers not to work at the shelter if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable doing so. As a result, only a handful of volunteers now help out.

Because of the lack of help at the shelter, animals are sent to fostering individuals and families, and thus there is a deep need for more people willing to do some foster care, Quimby noted. About 200 people are currently foster “parents” in Central Minnesota and beyond for TCHS, Quimby said. Fostering is crucial because in the spring season, the organization typically receives so many new animals, including litters of kittens and puppies, Quimby added. There were 700 baby animals (kittens, puppies) at the shelter last spring.

Two major spring fundraisers for TCHS are in jeopardy – the

Wine, Kibbles and Bits event at the College of St. Benedict and a Spaghetti Dinner event, both taking place in March and April. But this year, they have been delayed and might even have to be canceled. That is not good news since the Wine, Kibbles and Bits each year raises about \$80,000 for the TCHS's work.

“We are hoping to schedule them in June if possible,” Quimby said.

On the bright side, the new TCHS building, just to the west of the current one, is still under construction. The \$3.5-million facility, 14,000 square feet, will open in late fall this year, and fundraising to pay its total cost continues.

Also a bright note is the TCHS remains open from noon to 5 p.m. all week, with social distancing restrictions.

The best way to help TCHS for all of its current needs is to donate money or items. Items

needed on an ongoing basis are Clorox wipes, hand sanitizers, liquid soap, paper towels and – as always – lots of bags of kitty litter (preferably the cheaper, non-clumping types). There is a big bin outside the front of the TCHS building into which such items can be placed so those who donate don't have to violate social distancing.

Those who want to foster animals can do so by applying online. And those who want to donate money or other services can also do so online. To find out more and more ways of how to help out, google Tri-County Humane Society, St. Cloud MN.

Another animal-care shelter experiencing the same stresses and strains as the TCHS is Ruff Start Rescue, based in Princeton, which serves the entire Central Minnesota area. To find out how to help that organization, go to donations@ruffstar-trescue.org.



ConneX service fare increased

The fare for riders on the ConneX on-demand ride service in Sartell will increase to \$2.50 per ride beginning April 1.

Metro Bus said there will continue to be free transfers during the two-hour window from when the original fare was paid. Passengers will be able to transfer between fixed routes

and ConneX for free within the transfer window as well.

The system's 31-day and 10-ride passes can be used on the ConneX service. Passengers eligible for the U-Pass Ride Program will also be able to use their student IDs to ride ConneX. Service-connected veterans can ride ConneX for free.

The ConneX on-demand ride

service replaced fixed route buses in Sartell starting in January 2019. The service is a trial set to end Dec. 31. A decision will be made late in 2020 on whether the service will remain permanent.

To learn more about ConneX, visit www.ridemetrobus.com/connex/.



photos by Mike Knaak

Teacher Joseph Vanek provides tips for mixing ingredients to (from left) Amber Teer, Annika Orjansen and Sophie Line.

Food truck

from page 6

students enroll in the class. One group is looking to learn cooking to use in their every-day life. Others want to learn about the industry and what it’s like to work in a restau-

rant. "I took this class because I heard it was a really fun class and that Mr. Vanek was a really fun teacher," Keller said. "I enrolled in this class because I have always had an interest in cooking and baking and a lot of my friends really enjoyed this class so I decided it would be a good oppor-

tunity to practice and learn some new things," Teer said. "What I liked most about the class was definitely Mr. Vanek ... because he always found very fun and interesting recipes and activities for us to do that helped us relate to what we were learning."

Despite early tech issues, distance learning going well

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

After the first three days of distance learning, Sartell-St. Stephen school leaders evaluated how the district is handling the coronavirus pandemic during a school board working session April 1.

While technology issues early in the week were a concern, school board members discussed deeper and long-term challenges of continuing education with schools closed.

Schoology, the software the district uses to create, manage and share materials, essentially ground to a halt nationwide as usage skyrocketed on March 30. Problems continued through April 1. Schoology usage jumped 400 percent nationwide, according to Kyle Breitreutz, director of technology.

For households that don’t have high-speed internet, the district acquired 40 hotspots so families that either can’t afford or don’t have access can connect.

“We are in a major learning curve. The most exciting thing that’s happened this week is

the thrill of kids connecting with their teachers and each other,” said Kay Nelson, assistant superintendent.

Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert asked each board member to share what they’ve experienced as parents and what they’ve heard from the community.

The board agreed parents and staff have been positive in a very stressful time. Common comments included where to put everyone in families with multiple students at home, how the district can help parents supervise their child’s work and how to provide student-to-student communication, especially for older students, who are more likely to ask a friend for help rather than a teacher.

Board member Patrick Marushin would like to see feedback from parents and staff.

“What are we adjusting as we go along?” Marushin asked. He said he wants to see continuous improvement.

The district has served about 1,500 meals a day that are picked up at the Mid-

Distance • back page

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.

Sunday, April 12
Easter Sunday Service, 10

a.m., City Hope Church, 413 Franklin Ave. NE, St. Cloud. One-hour drive-in service. Social distancing will be honored, no bathrooms available. Bring your lawn chair, sit by your car and listen to a live service.

Monday, April 13
Sartell City Council meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

Tuesday, April 14

Le Sauk Township Board, 7 p.m. Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/308650277>. You can also dial in using your phone 408-650-3123.

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Opinion

Our View Let’s not go back to normal

Social distancing. Shelter in place. Distance learning. Self-quarantine. Ventilators. N95s. When will our vocabulary, not to mention our lives, go back to normal?

The day will come when this crisis will be behind us. But we shouldn’t go back to normal. The coronavirus pandemic revealed weaknesses and opportunities in our social and economic life that need attention.

Many of us are working from home, while our offices are shuttered. Maybe we’ll find out this is a plus for efficiency, morale and employee retention. Workers may want to work from home once the restrictions are lifted. Employers will need smaller offices, employees won’t need to fight traffic and they’ll spend less money on gas and parking. If everyone worked from home just one day a week, and that day rotated, the need to build more roads and freeways would end.

Educators have experimented with distance learning for years. Those plans are no longer theories, but everyday reality. We’ll soon find out what works and what doesn’t and those successes can be part of “normal” education, keeping in mind nothing replaces face-to-face interaction between a student and teacher.

Working or learning at home assumes widespread high-speed internet access and a computer. That’s a false assumption. When Sartell-St. Stephen school administrators formulated their distance learning plan, they estimated about 90 percent of students had high-speed internet access at home. A national study ranking metro areas revealed that in the St. Cloud area, about 85 percent of households have high-speed internet. High-speed internet should be available to every household, like water and electricity.

The virus is exposing two fundamental flaws in our “normal” society: children’s nutrition is tied to schools and health care is tied to employment.

When school leaders planned how to serve students during the shutdown, a major concern was how to deliver meals to students who depend on schools for breakfast and lunch.

For millions of workers who have lost their jobs and who depended on employment for health insurance, the debate over “Medicare for all” or “Medicare for all who need it” takes on new urgency. Citizens should demand a public option for all Americans so a job loss doesn’t turn into a medical or financial disaster. The Trump administration should immediately drop its lawsuit intended to further weaken the Affordable Care Act by removing the pre-existing conditions requirement.

Some of the first victims of the economic slowdown are contract, part-time, freelance, service and gig-economy workers who do not qualify for either employer-provided health insurance or unemployment insurance. As more workers move to a nontraditional employment model, those social programs should protect them too.

We’re in the middle of an election year and many states have pushed back primaries. States are already making plans about how to conduct the November election in the middle of pandemic. The larger issue that should be fixed: Why do we still vote on Tuesdays? All states should adopt mail-in ballots and “no-fault” absentee voting in addition to moving elections to a week-end day. More than 70 percent of Minnesotans usually vote, a turnout that’s tops in the country. But a 70 percent grade usually gets you a “C,” not something to be proud off.

Just after Barack Obama’s election, Rahm Emanuel, his chief of staff, made this memorable and cynical statement: “You never want a serious crisis to go to waste.”

When this crisis ends, let’s just not go back to “normal” but instead let’s not waste the chance to make overdue social and economic changes.

Time for Trump to self-quarantine

Mike
Knaak
Editor



The president planned to address the nation on a spring Sunday night and speak to an urgent crisis. How he should manage the crisis had deeply divided the country. The president suffered from a huge credibility gap with voters. And it was an election year.

After speaking for about 40 minutes, the president shocked the audience, including his closest advisers.

“I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my party for another term as your president.”

With those words, on March 31, 1968, Lyndon Johnson pledged to spend all his time on ending the Vietnam War instead of running for a second term. In the previous three months, the Tet Offensive had shaken America and raised doubts if the long war could be won, or even ended. Tet galvanized opposition to the war and on March 12, liberal Minnesota Sen. Eugene McCarthy captured 42 percent of the vote in the New Hampshire Democratic primary. Johnson got 48 percent. A few days later, New York Sen. Robert Kennedy entered the race as well as another liberal, anti-war challenger to Johnson.

Johnson’s departure opened the way for his vice-president, Hubert Humphrey and a former senator from Minnesota, to run for president. In a close race, Humphrey lost to Richard Nixon. The last troops finally left Vietnam in April 1975.

Now we are in another national crisis. Americans are divided over how to solve it. How much of the country should be shut down? For how long? What should the government do to cushion the economic and social impacts? Political leaders are balancing public health with

economic health.

There’s a big red state/blue state divide on many of these issues. Many of the states led by Republicans have been among the last to issue restrictions, despite advice from public health officials that Covid-19 will eventually spread everywhere. Unfortunately, they see this as a problem in the big cities that happen to be led by Democrats – New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Detroit.

Public opinion polls show a deep divide between Republican and Democratic voters with Republicans seeing the issue as much less urgent and concerning than Democrats, although the gap is narrowing as the body count increases and confirmed cases mount everywhere.

While public health and intelligence professionals tried to deliver warnings three months ago, Donald Trump denied the facts, delayed action, deflected blame and demonized his opponents. We’re hearing reports that early in the year, advisers said “all the lights were flashing red,” words that eerily echoed warnings in the summer before 9/11.

Even as most medical professionals were warning of the spread of the virus, many of Fox News’ most prominent voices were dismissing it as a hoax in the latest attempt by Democrats and the media to hurt Trump.

Trump has spent much of his presidency seeking to undermine the

credibility of the media in the eyes of his supporters. At a time when we need a common set of facts and set of information distribution channels we can trust, we don’t have them.

Trump’s daily briefings are really a weak attempt to replace arena rallies in front of his cheering, red-hatted flock. But his quips intended to demonize and divide don’t play as well in a small room of reporters.

The country needs confident, coherent and consistent leadership, not a carnival barker or insult comic. This is not the time for a leader whose signature moment is firing people on reality TV.

For years, Trump has ridiculed and attacked the so-called “deep state.” Now he needs those public health, intelligence and economic experts to handle the first crisis of his presidency that wasn’t of his own making.

Trump stakes his re-election on low unemployment, a strong stock market and hundreds of young conservatives he appointed to the federal judiciary. He’s lost two of his three arguments for re-election, although the economic trends he touts merely continued their performance since mid 2009.

It’s time for Trump to follow Johnson’s path and step back from the campaign and focus on the pandemic. He should announce that he won’t run again. If he’s worried about his future, after Nov. 3 and before Jan. 20, he should resign. Acting president Mike Pence could issue a pardon to protect him from any possible federal prosecution.

Trump could then safely self-quarantine in Mar-a-Lago.

Transform isolation into fun family bonding

Dennis
Dalman
Reporter



Social isolation does not have to be a miserable dilemma akin to solitary confinement in a jail. In fact, it can be a rewarding, connective experience – a time for families to slow down and strengthen bonds.

A long time ago, we kids loved those happy days when we were shut inside the house during blizzards and rainstorms. We’d get out our board games (favorites being Monopoly and Clue), cards, jigsaw puzzles, coloring books, paint-by-number sets and have at it. Sometimes, our parents would squeeze in around the dining-room table, joining in the fun.

Here are some suggestions for turning restless isolation into a time for rediscovering what really counts most in life – one another.

- As already mentioned, bring out those board games, puzzles, coloring books and other fun hobbies. If you don’t have board games or other such items, you could order some online if you feel it’s not wise to venture forth to shop.
- Have reading sessions, each person taking turns reading aloud from an adventure storybook classic, like “Treasure Island,” “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” or the Harry Potter series.
- Pop lots of popcorn, then hunker down together to watch a great family movie. “The Wizard of Oz” is always lots of fun, and so are Walt Disney movies.
- Have a cook-in. Bake some cookies,

- Do a long-delayed home project, like finishing that basement. Make it fun so kids will want to have input and help out.
- Take out those boxes of old mementoes, souvenirs, photos and what-not and share them with everyone sitting at the kitchen table. That was one of our very favorite things to do on blizzard days, with our parents telling us stories, often hilarious, sometimes tragic, of the people pictured in a Kodak slice of time.
- For the little ones, have a scavenger hunt, like an Easter-egg hunt, in the yard or in the house. Hide treats here and there and let kids find them. We kids so loved those “hunts.”
- Surprise faraway family members, relatives or friends by writing a “real” letter to them, with everyone contributing to the writing process, then send the letter in a real envelope with a real postage stamp on it. The recipients just might go wobbly with shock after getting a “real” letter in the mailbox.
- Most of all, through every day and night, stay upbeat do not succumb to a sky-is-falling attitude. That gloom-and-doom mood is highly detrimental to children’s sense of security. Yes, there will be hardships, trials, tribulations and – tragically – deaths. But if we kick in our courage and our persistence, there will also be plenty of healthy bonding going on, with families having fun and being strengthened. And not to forget, strengthened families make for strong societies.

Public notice

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748
FEB. 24, 2020
DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER BOARD ROOM

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Jeremy Snoberger. Members present: Snoberger; Jason Nies, vice chair; Amanda Byrd, clerk; Patrick Marushin, treasurer; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Arrival post roll call: Pamela Raden, director, 7:04 p.m. Members absent: Lesa Kramer, director.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Byrd to APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS; remove item G from the Consent Agenda and add the Local Control Resolution as Action Item three. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on Jan. 27, 2020

Minutes of the board work session held on Feb. 19, 2020

b. Checks in the amount of \$1,670,599.63 as presented:

General Fund	1,199,249.80
Food Service Fund	135,010.13
Transportation Fund	201,166.68
Community Service Fund	38,173.55
Capital Expenditure Fund	96,999.47
Check numbers 177653 – 177936	

ACHs in the amount of \$9,581.95 as presented:

General Fund	9,247.59
Food Service Fund	328.36
Community Service Fund	6.00
ACH numbers 192000139-192000162	

Receipts in the amount of \$3,875,999.22 as presented:

General Fund	2,582,159.96
Food Service Fund	239,334.86
Transportation Fund	91,019.56
Community Service Fund	123,784.85
Building Fund	5,504.17
Debt Service Fund	31,852.25
Internal Service Fund	9,111.19
Receipts 47139 - 47311	

Wire transfers in the amount of \$735,222.48 as presented:

General Fund	179,354.80
Food Service Fund	9,902.72
Transportation Fund	833.26
Community Service Fund	3,976.91
Capital Expenditure Fund	4,174.33
Debt Service Fund	536,980.46
Wire transfers 201900531-201900632	

Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$2,404,011.33 as presented:

Building Fund	2,404,011.33
Check numbers 600869 to 600907	

c. Accept the following donations:

Electrolux, ISD #748, miscellaneous office supplies, general donation; Oak Ridge Elementary PTO, Oak Ridge Elementary, \$1,750, donation for One District One Book.

d. Accept the resignation of Jennifer Ambrosier, SMS, accompanist, 2/18/20; Angela Seutter, PME, elementary teacher, 6/3/20. accept the retirement of Carol Brockman, SMS, fifth-grade teacher, 6/3/20; Peggy Fogarty, PME, first-grade teacher, 6/3/20; Tracy Steinhoff, ORE, speech language pathologist, 6/26/20; Susan Symanietz, SHS, FACS teacher, end of 2019-20 school year.

e. Approve AIPAC Resolution

f. Approve GCU Student Teacher Agreement Renewal
All in favor. Motion carried.

Student Representative Report: Courtney Snoberger, student representative

Snoberger reported on happenings around the district. Oak Ridge is celebrating “I Love to Read” month with the challenge for students to read 220,000 minutes and staff to read 67,000 minutes in February. Oak Ridge and Pine Meadow will start the Music in Our Schools concerts in March with both fourth-grade concerts being held on March 5 and third-grade being held on March 10 at Oak Ridge and March 12 at Pine Meadow. Pine Meadow Bingo Night will be held on Feb. 27 and Oak Ridge Bingo Night will be

held on March 13. Both elementary schools are hosting parent-teacher conferences this week. The High School’s student-run business, The Mill, has started selling Sabre apparel and coffee mugs designed and created by students in the art department. Metal plates are being designed to be used on the dedication wall near the entrance of the building. State competitions have started for winter sports. The dance team took first place in high kick and placed second in jazz and the gymnastics team placed second in team competition. The boys swim team and individual wrestlers are going to their state competitions at the end of this week. The musical will hold tryouts for this year’s spring musical.

Construction Manager Report on Building Process:

Construction Manager Lee Gruen reported all interiors in the old high school are in the finishing stages with only paint and carpeting remaining. The first shipment of furniture will arrive by April 1 and a second shipment by April 17. The replacement skylight glass arrived and that project will start March 2. Bid documents should be ready by Friday for Riverview Intermediate with a pre-bid date of March 12, bids being due on March 26 and being approved at the April board meeting.

Superintendent Report: Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent

Schwiebert reported on the importance of partnerships between the District and different community groups. A few of those partnerships include the following: the City of Sartell, which includes managing the Community Center, technology consulting and working together on fieldwork at Pinecone Central Park and St. Cloud Orthopedic Sports Field; the local Sapphires Gymnastics group and potential opportunities with the Youth Hockey associations. The High School will participate in the EPIC event at St. Cloud Technical and Community College Feb. 28 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and the board is welcome to attend if available.

ISD 748 e-Learning Report

Director of Technology Kyle Breitreutz gave an overview of the Minnesota State Statute on e-Learning and shared the process the District has undertaken to determine our path and related decision-making.

Minnesota Student Survey Results Report

Marie Pangerl, District assessment coordinator and School Counselors Noel Meyer and Shannon Zinken reported on our local Minnesota Student Survey 2019 results.

Enrollment Report:

Superintendent Schwiebert reported on the current enroll-

ment numbers for each school.

School Board Committee Report:

Vice Chair Nies reported on the recent CIA meeting he attended on Feb. 18. Topics covered included new course offerings at the High School, a presentation on The Mill store and an e-Learning presentation.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE #1-25:

New Employees/Changes:

Dianne Amundson, Transportation, bus driver, \$24.56/hour, 2 hours/day, midday route, additional route replacing Sherri Jaeger, 2/4/2020; Annabel Anderson, ORE, LTS para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, new position, 3/4/2020; Kiaya Anderson, Early Childhood/ DSC, ECSE para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, Wednesday - 6 hours/day, Friday - 3 hours/day, new position, 2/24/2020; Kiaya Anderson, Early Childhood/ DSC, LTS para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, M/T/TH - 6 hours/day, Friday -3 hours/day, new position, 2/24/2020; Lori Bell, SMS, LTS para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, new position, 2/19/20; Elizabeth Brylski, Early Childhood/ DSC, childcare attendant \$15.27/hour, RIV, S3, M- 5.25 hours/day, additional hours due to staffing needs, 1/30/2020; Matt Darling, SMS, junior high track, \$1,062 (4.5 percent), BA, G (\$47,181), 50-percent contract, replacing Noel Meyer, 3/2/2020; Kacey Dougherty, Transportation, bus monitor, \$17.76/hour, 1.75 hours/day, additional route replacing Dianne Amundson, 2/12/2020; Robert Dyer, SMS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, replacing Tracey Robak, 2/10/2020; Angie Hochhalter, PME, LTS para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, new position, 2/3/2020; Sherri Jaeger, Transportation, bus driver, \$24.56/hour, 8 hours/day, replacing Jane Schneider, 1/27/2020; Shirley Janu, SMS, LTS SPED, \$191.45/day, replacing Carmen Peterson, 2/24/20-5/4/20; Eric Koplitz, SHS, ninth-grade baseball, \$3,912 (9.5 percent), BA, A (\$41,178), replacing Sam Jarnot, 3/16/2020; Kim Mitchell, SMS, eighth-grade softball, \$1,853 (4.5 percent), BA, A (\$41,178), replacing Jacob Smith, 3/2/2020; Susan Oachs, Early Childhood/DSC, childcare attendant, M-F 1.25 hours/day, M/W/F 6 hours/day, T/TH 7 hours/day, change in schedule due to staffing needs, 1/30/2020; Julie Peabody, Transportation, bus monitor, \$16.49/hour, 4.5 hours/day, additional assignment, new position, 3/2/2020; Josie Potrament, ORE, SPED, \$43,024, BA, Step B, new position, 8/26/2020; Chris Schumer, SMS, seventh-grade baseball, \$1,853 (4.5 percent), BA, A (\$41,178), replacing Nathan Schultz, 3/2/2020; Irina Stene, SMS, accompanist, \$16.82/hour, RV, S1, 5 hours/week, replacing Jennifer Ambrosier, 2/19/2020; Geralyn Stock, SMS,

cashier, \$15.58/hour, R1, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Jill Peterson, 1/30/2020; Ronell Uran, RIS, administrative assistant, \$29.83/hour, RVI, S7, 8 hours/day, 222 days/year, new position, 7/1/2020; Christina Voegele, SMS, teacher, \$57,748, MA, Step F, returning from leave, 8/31/2020.

Leaves of Absence:

Sarah Garrigan, ORE, teacher, LOA, 2/27/20 – 3/11/20; Kristin Hanson, SMS, teacher, LOA, 5/18/20 – end of school year; Michelle Traut, ORE, para, LOA, 2/16/20-3/31/20.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Byrd to APPROVE REVISIONS TO POLICIES 414, 514, 524, 535, 614, 701.1, 707, 708 AND 806. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL. All in favor. Motion carried.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Board Work Session – TBD – District Services Center @ 6:30 p.m.

Future Board Meeting – Monday, March 16 – District Services Center @ 6:30 p.m.

Official Review of Policies:

The Board had the official second reading of adoption of proposed policy 535.

The Board had the official first reading of revisions to policy 625.

Committee Assignments were reviewed.

The Board took a five-minute recess at 8:10 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Byrd TO CLOSE THE MEETING FOR NEGOTIATIONS STRATEGY PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA 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 Nies and seconded by Marushin at 8:29 p.m. TO OPEN THE MEETING. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:30 p.m. was made by Raden and seconded by Nies. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Amanda Byrd, clerk

Publish: April 3, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The Sartell-St. Stephen School District No. 748 is accepting bids for Riverview Intermediate Furniture

Sartell-St. Stephen school district will receive sealed bids at the District Service Center on May 1, 2020 at 9 a.m. CST. Bids should be delivered to 212 Third Ave. N., Sartell, MN. Attention Joe Prom.

Plans will be available on or after April 14, 2020. Contact Marissa Arroyo from the office of JLG Architects for document access at 701-365-4105 or marroyo@jlgarchitects.com.

Publish: April 3, 2020

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Distance

from page 9

dle School, according to Joe Prom, director of business services.

Marushin, who works at home and has children at home, said the free meals have been a huge weight off of him and other parents. In addition the district is delivering about 100 meals a day.

Schwiebert described the attendance this week as “incredible,” Schwiebert said. The Middle School had three kids who didn’t connect on Monday.

“It’s going well in the first week” Schwiebert said. “What will it be like in week six? How can we keep kids motivated and enthusiastic? What will happen over time?”

The board and Schwiebert also want to come up with ideas to help seniors mark their final year in school in-

cluding traditional events like awards ceremonies and graduation if the school is still shut down.

Schwiebert said a decision on graduation has to wait until Gov. Tim Walz makes a decision. Now schools are shut down until May 4 unless Walz issues another order to extend distance learning.

“How do we recognize kids in their final year and bring the community back together?” Schwiebert asked.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

A new normal

Molly Chappell, 12, of Sartell, rides a scooter alone up and down a deserted portion of Fifth Street N. on March 17. The street, which is usually a busy artery of kids streaming to and from school, is now quiet due to the school being closed and social distancing rules in effect.



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