# **Postal** Reaching Everybody! leaders

Friday, June 26, 2020 Volume 25, Issue 13 Est. 1995

## **Town Crier**

#### Farmers' Market open Mondays

Sartell Farmers Market is open Mondays from 3-6 p.m. in Bernick's Ice Arena Parking Lot on Pinecone Road. Summer has arrived and so have the vegetables. Items currently available include the following: peas, beans, radishes, lettuce, kohlrabi, beets, zucchini, onions and much more. Be sure to check back each week; new vegetables arriving weekly. In addition to the vegetables you will find eggs, meat, baked goods, caramel corn, salsa, fudge and many other items.

#### Sartell City Hall partially reopens

Sartell City Hall will open for business with residents starting Thursday, July 1, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday. The Sartell City Council and city administrator agreed to those limited hours at the June 22 council meeting. For times beyond those hours, residents must make appointments ahead of time.

During visits to city hall, people are strongly encouraged to wear masks and to maintain social distancing.

#### Stearns trail help needed

The Stearns County Parks department needs help monitoring trail head and intersection signs. Bring comfortable hiking shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, a cloth and Windex. Walk the trail and quickly wipe down the trail intersections. Sign up here https://secure.rec1.com/MN/ stearns-county-mn/catalog or call Sarah Weed, Parks Operations coordinator, 320-654-4726.

#### **Big Brothers Big Sisters** needs mentors

Volunteer mentors and defenders of potential are needed at Big Brothers Big Sisters. Virtual web information sessions are available for your convenience and safety. Visit www.bigdefenders.org to learn more or contact Shelby@bigdefenders.org.

# Free store helps many; donations needed

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

The Free Community Store that Celebration Lutheran Church members in Sartell started a couple of months ago has been so successful and so needed that it's being inundated by requests for help.

The volunteers of the store are requesting donations (see end of this story to find out how to give).

During the past three weeks, the store volunteers have done 70 food-and-careproducts deliveries and/or curbside pick-ups.

Last week, the store volunteers delivered packages to 18 families and to Good Shepherd Assisted Living Apartments. Store volunteers learned about a blind woman who'd had her bottom teeth removed and needed soft foods. The store delivered, and the woman was very happy. Another two deliver-Store • page 2



Miles Lundsetter, son of Jessica and Dustin Lundsetter of Sartell, loves to help his parents and others deliver food and care items to people in need, many of whom have lost their jobs because of the virus pandemic.

## EdVenture Club to start (hopefully) Sept. 8

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

Parents of school children ages 3 to 5 can now register for an upcoming enrichment and activities program dubbed "Sabre EdVenture Club" that will start in the upcoming school year.

EdVenture is short for "Education Adventure." It will take place at Riverview, the newly remodeled former Sartell Middle School.

There is an "if" attached, however. EdVenture will start if schools will open, and that will happen if and when the danger of the pandemic recedes or better yet - ceases.

EdVenture is a before- and after-school care program, similar to Kidstop that keeps kids happy and involved through recreational activities and fun learning that include science,

art, reading, math and physical education. Nutritious snacks and juices will be served in the afternoon sessions. Costs for EdVenture are the same as those for Kidstop.

Besides before- and after-school options, EdVenture also offers care for occasional days, drop-ins and for nonschool days and vacation days. Slots for those options, however, are at this time a bit limited.

EdVenture is a program created by Sartell-St. Stephen Community Education. Kristina Leppanen, youth program coordinator for community education, strongly advises parents register early to be sure there will be a spot for their children when the program be-

"There will be socialization, a kind of safe 'hang-out' space E Club • page 2

## Race question surfaces at council meeting

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

A motion by the Sartell City court in a park of The Wilds neighborhood raised questions of possible racial insensitivity at the June 22 council meeting.

The suggestion to move that court to the city's Watab Park came after some residents complained of young black males from St. Cloud playing on that court while listening to loud music and using obscene language. At least one resident also said some neighborhood children had been harassed or threat-

who began playing ball in that park after the gyms they used the virus pandemic.

Council member Mike Chisum vigorously opposed the suggestion to move the basketball court and accused the rest of the council of not including him in any previous discussions about that court or its removal. He said he knew nothing about it (the "Park Reorganization Project" as it was dubbed) until recently. Chisum, who has lived in The Wilds for 12 years, said he has never heard complaints about that park or its court players.

twice a day every day.

Council to move a basketball to play in were closed due to the council decided to table posting on the "Unite Cloud" action on the court removal, possibly until the next council Park resident, formed that ormeeting. In the meantime, a study can be done about problems at the court and how to address them.

There have been postings on social media that moving the park was motivated by racist attitudes toward the young black players. The first complaints from neighbors came to Sartell City Administrator Anna Gruber in late April.

Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitz-

ened by the basketball players He drives by that court at least thum said when he became aware of that, he talked with After listening to Chisum, Natalie Ringsmuth about a website. Ringsmuth, a Waite ganization to foster cultural and racial understanding in the greater St. Cloud area. Fitzthum told the council he explained to Ringsmuth about the tensions building in The Wilds due to loud music and foul language at that court. He said at the June 22 council meeting that Ringsmuth came to understand that everyone, regardless of race, is welcome in Sartell. She then took the

Race • page 2



A deer is spotted June 22 in the Riverview Intermediate School

## E Club

#### from front page

for kids," Leppanen said.

But participants will be doing far more than just hanging out, she added.

"There will be many activities and a theme of the week, such as science, nature, art and more," she said. "We would like to have smaller groups say, no more than 10 children in each group. And we will then rotate specialists, instructors and presenters."

EdVenture, Leppanen said, is an example of the "new flexibility," of "thinking outside the box" and enhanced collaborations, all brought about by the restrictions imposed by the pandemic crisis.

The basics of the program, the things parents should consider before registering, are the

The before-school program, from 6:30-8:10 a.m. offers five options - from one day a week to five days a week. The after-school program, 2:40-6:15 p.m., also has those same options, one to five days a week.

The monthly fees are calculated based on 20 school days in a month multiplied by \$4 per day for the morning program

and \$10.25 per day for the afternoon program. If there are fewer than usual school days in a month or a child does not use all of their days in a month, then a credit for such days will roll into the next month.

Other options are for occasional use or drop-ins. Those are designed for families whose children need care one to three times each month, but the option is available only if space is available. To check availability, call 320-258-7334. The before-school occasional use and drop-in options cost \$5 per day for the before-school program and \$11 per day for the after-school program.

There is also an option for nonschool days and vacation days that parents may sign up for at the time they register for the school year. For more information, see "Sabres EdVenture Club" on the school district's website. Registration can be done on that same website.

There are scholarships and fee assistance available for families who need help. A sliding fee scale can be used for children who qualify for the Free and Reduced-Cost Lunch Program.

For more information about any aspect of the EdVenture Club, call Leppanen at 320-258-

## Race

#### from front page

posting off her website.

The Wilds' court is in a park with no nighttime court lights and no restrooms. One reason to move the park, advocates said, is that Watab Park has those amenities.

Chisum, however, strongly disagreed with the proposed solution of moving the court. He said he received 15 emails about the suggestion of moving that court. Thirteen, he noted, were not in favor of it; two stated the court should be moved. Chisum said it would be foolish and a bad precedent to move a court just because basically one family and a few other people want it moved.

"Frankly, I think Sartell is better than this," he said.

Chisum said he talked with the black players, who did admit they played their music quite loud and admitted that now and then they would use cuss words. But he said the young men he talked with were amenable to working on those complaints.

Chisum countered arguments he's heard in favor of moving the court, including the following: according to Chisum, excuses were made or reasons were exaggerated to have the court moved, such as too much traffic, outof-town visitors to the park not paying city taxes, charges of harassment when the person or persons who made such complaints did not even call the police and complaints about bad behavior on the court during times when nobody was even on the court.

Council member Jeff Kolb said everybody is welcome at that park or anywhere in Sartell as long as they obey the law and behave themselves. He said that if someone harassed his wife or daughter, he would be very upset. Chisum said he, too, a father of two daughters, would be upset if they were harassed and that he would call the police immediately, which anyone should do if a crime is committed.

Sartell Police Chief Jim Hughes, who was at the June 22 council meeting, said he had not received any harassment complaints from resi-

dents of The Wilds, though he added that does not mean there were no such incidents.

That park, Chisum said, is a public park, available for use by anybody, including out-of-towners.

City administrator Gruber also addressed the council. After receiving complaints in late April, she visited the park and talked with the young black basketball players. They admitted they had used foul language and admitted some incidents of urinating because of no bathrooms. When she told them they would be welcome if and when a court is installed at Watab Park with night lights and restrooms, she said they were thrilled.

"It had nothing to do with race," she told the council. "If we hurt anybody, I deeply, deeply apologize. But that was absolutely not our intent."

The council then voted unanimously to table the motion, to study the problems and potential solutions and to make a decision possibly at the next council meeting. They also agreed any discussion of the park and court should involve the public.

## Store

#### from front page

ies went to a single mother of five children, ages 3 to 11. Volunteers were greeted with a loud happy chorus of "thank yous."

The store started when church members set up a table on church property stacked with free food and care items for people to take free. Others would bring items to drop off on the table. The generosity was so remarkable that volunteers started storing all the contributions inside the church's large lobby area.

Agape Ministries donated fresh-food items to the Free Community Store three times, and all the items were needed within 48 hours. There is now a waiting list, but Walmart gave a monetary donation to help out.

Jessica Lundsetter, one of the store founders and volunteers, said curbside pick- was my first week back to

ups of donated items has now equaled the amount of deliveries to people in need.

One day Lundsetter was buying gift cards at Walmart and was short about \$14. A woman in line behind her gave her the money and told Lundsetter she's read about the free store online.

The volunteers and Celebration Lutheran Church have received a blizzard of emails and notes from grateful people.

Just three examples:

"Everything was delivered and is perfect! Thank you so much again." - A family with three kids.

"I want to let you know how much I appreciate all the food and extras you helped us with. I have never had to use a service like this so it was really hard for me, but times are a struggle right now with being out of work for a month. Again thank you so much." - Single mom with two teenagers.

"Thank you. This week

work around people. Masks all around. I had to leave my babies. We had a family friend commit suicide last week after struggling with his mental health for many years and not being able to cope with the loss of his job. Prayers welcomed." - A

There are three ways to donate food and care items.

- Drop them off outside of Celebration Lutheran Church's office door in a tote marked "Donations." The church address is 1500 Pinecone Road N.
- · To have donated items picked up curbside, contact Jessica Lundsetter or Tyler Malotky at:

j.lundsetter@gmail.com tylermalotky@gmail.com

• Mail or drop off monetary offerings or gift cards for Kwik Trip, Coborn's, Walmart or Sam's Club. Send to Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N., Sartell, MN 56377.

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

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#### <u>Newsstands</u>

Coborn's - Riverside Country Manor Country Store & Pharmacy Hardee's Holiday on 7th Holiday - Riverside House of Pizza

Kwik Trip Little Dukes - Pinecone The Newsleaders office Sartell City Hall School District Offices SuperAmerica Walgreens

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## 'We need to do better' school board members told at session

by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleaders.com

Since the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and a renewed focus on racial justice, the Sartell-St. Stephen school has taken two actions to address local concerns.

The board conducted a listening session June 24 to hear about how schools should address equity issues. On June 15, the district published a statement that emphasized "as a school district, we are committed to ensuring each child is part of a healthy, safe, engaged and supported environment."

About two dozen people attended the listening session at the high school. Participants included students, parents, community members and teachers. About half of them shared experiencing racism; insensitive, hurtful comments about religion; and failed attempts to correct the problems.

Board members heard suggestions that centered on these

- hire an equity director and create an equity department to lead training and curriculum development. One speaker said Sartell-St. Stephen should work with St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids
- ongoing, required professional development for staff about how to recognize and understand racial injustice and how to handle it in the class-
- a more diverse staff so students of color see people who look like them in leadership

Several students of color said they were called racially offensive names, teased for their appearance or criticized for their religion. They also criticized how racist behavior was poorly handled in the classroom. "No one knows what to do," one black student said.

"Awareness in our culture has pushed things forward in a good way," board chair Jeremy Snoberger said before the meeting. "We always respect voices in our community, and this is a reality we need to address."

Students of color make up less than 10 percent of the district's enrollment. Not dealing with equity issues, several speakers said, is a disservice to white students because they will be entering a diverse word.

"They will go into a much more multi-cultural world than we have here," Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert said in an interview last week. "How are we preparing all of our kids for a more diverse world?'

Several of the parents and students of color spoke about the high-quality education they receive but said the district is failing on diversity and inclu-

One parent, who teaches in another district said, "Sartell is a leader in so many ways. This is an opportunity for Sartell to lead the way," she said. "We need to be better."

"Schools need to reflect their community but also "educate, train and equip students for the world they enter," Snoberger said during an interview before the meeting. "We seek to be an active part of the community."

In planning the meeting, Schwiebert said the current discussion around racial equity could be a "momentous time. We don't want to tell students what to think but explain issues to help them process the information" and be "well prepared citizens of the country."

Toward the end of the meeting, Sartell Mayor Ryan Fitzthum spoke. "This isn't a St. Cloud issue, this isn't just a school issue. It's a community issue. Don't think it can't happen here. Let's get it done right and let's get it done together."

The board has used listening sessions before as a means to guide policies and decisions. When an operating levy failed two years ago, the board host-

ed a series of sessions that helped shape a second levy question approved by voters last year.

Scheduling the listening session on equity followed an informal discussion at a board working session a few weeks ago. Snoberger said the board has talked about how to be more transparent. "Let's start now," he said.

The board has scheduled a work session for Wednesday, July 8, where board members would have a chance to discuss what they learn at the listening session. The July 8 meeting will begin with a closed session at 5:30 p.m. where the board with discuss Schwiebert's evaluation. An open session will follow at about 6:30 or 7 p.m. The meeting will be at the District Service Center, 212 Third Ave. N.

For a more detailed version of this story, go to www.thenewsleaders.com.

## Parents grade Sartell-St. Stephen's distance learning

by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell-St. Stephen school district received almost 1,500 responses to a survey on distance learning and the preliminary responses show encouraging results but also give educators some issues to focus on if distance learning returns in the fall.

About 60 percent of parents responded the amount of work assigned was "just right" with about an equal percentage of remaining responses reporting "too much" or "too little."

Almost three quarters of students engaged in distance learning between 7 a.m.-1 p.m., the results showed. By contrast, only 7.6 percent of students worked between 7-10

About half of all students reported spending between two and four hours a day on their studies.

Assistant Superintendent Kay Nelson shared the results during a June 15 school board meeting and she noted to board members that the survey was

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still open for responses.

Board member Pam Raden commented the results were "looking pretty good, better than I anticipated." Nelson said she was happy that so many families took time to respond.

Responses were pretty evenly spread among all buildings and grade levels.

School leaders were continually concerned about communication once distance learning began on March 30 and continued through the end of the school year.

The survey showed 81.4 percent of respondents described the amount of communication as "just right." Adequate communication and feedback from teachers was about evenly split between "all," "most" and "some" of a student's teachers.

On the topic of adjusting to distance learning, 46.1 percent reported "doing well," 42 percent reported "we struggled with adjustments but overall we managed" and 11.8 percent "struggled greatly and could have used some additional

Lutheran Social Service

support."

Overall, 40.7 percent of respondents judged distance learning as "good" and 35.8 percent rated it "fair."

Sartell-St. Stephen school leaders will begin preliminary plans for fall during July in anticipation of final guidelines from the Department of Education expected the week of July 27. Then detailed planning will begin.

The Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education released what they described as "contingency" planning guidelines. The state agencies encouraged districts to plan for three scenarios:

• Return all students to school buildings following the most current Centers for Disease Control and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines.

• Return students to school ment of Health guidelines. buildings implementing a hybrid model following the most current Centers for Disease Control and Minnesota Depart-

• No students return to school buildings. Implement a distance learning model.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE \_

**CALL FOR BIDS - MILK PRODUCTS** ISD #748 SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN **PUBLIC SCHOOLS** SARTELL, MN

The Board of Education of Independent School District No. 748, Sartell, Minnesota, will receive sealed bids until 1 p.m. Monday, July 13, 2020 in the District Services Center of said district for Milk Products for the 2020-21 school year to be delivered to each of the buildings at Sartell-St. Stephen Public Schools. Complete specifications may be obtained by calling Joe Prom at joe.prom@sartell.k12.mn.us. The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Amanda Byrd, clerk

Independent School District No. 748 212 Third Ave. N. Sartell, MN 56377

Publish: June 26, 2020



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#### -Public notice

#### REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748 MAY 18, 2020 DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER BOARD ROOM VIA TELECONFERENCE

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

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Marushin to AP-PROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Raden, Kramer, Nies, Marushin, Byrd and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Raden to APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS A-E AS PRESENTED BELOW. On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Raden, Kramer, Nies, Marushin, Byrd and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on April 20, 2020

Minutes of the special meeting/work session held on May 6, 2020

Minutes of the special meeting held on May 11, 2020 b. Checks in the amount of \$1,544,823.12 as presented:

General Fund	1,291,676.55
Food Service Fund	75,031.40
Transportation Fund	30,713.34
Community Service Fund	41,540.99
Capital Expenditure Fund	105,860.84
Check numbers 178402 – 178561	

ACHs in the amount of \$709.57 as presented:

General Fund 479.39 Food Service Fund 230.18

ACH numbers 192000204-192000207

Receipts in the amount of \$4,259,227.55 as presented:

General Fund	4,154,530.98
Food Service Fund	54,785.72
Transportation Fund	24,677.61
Community Service Fund	15,343.33
Building Fund	1,582.23
Internal Service Fund	8,307.68
Receipts 47599 - 47656	

Wire transfers in the amount of \$366,211.14 as presented:

General Fund	23,329.12
Food Service Fund	3,021.73
Transportation Fund	99.37
Community Service Fund	374.48
Capital Expenditure Fund	33,572.50
Building Fund	26,048.48
Internal Service Fund	279,765.46

Wire transfers 201900817-201900900

Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$1,912,422.16 as presented:

Building Fund 1,912,422.16 Check numbers 600967 to 600993

c. Accept the following donations:

Aaron Gillam, Food Service, \$1,000, donation to Food Service Department; Pinecone Central Park Association, ISD #748, \$100, #BeTheLight donation; Pine Meadow Elementary PTO, Pine Meadow Elementary, \$733.50, donation for fourth-grade books; SSEF, Sartell Middle School, \$109.80, Student Powered Conference bus costs.

d. Accept the resignation of Bart Appleton, DSC, Human Resources director, 7/1/20; Emily Donnay, SHS, FCS teacher, end of the school year; Sharon Emslander, District, Food Service sub, end of the school year; Julie Peabody, SMS, cashier, May 21, 2020; Julie Peabody, Transportation, bus monitor, May 21, 2020; Nancy Sutherland, PME, media aid, April 17, 2020; Joey Vanek, SHS, FCS teacher, end of school year. Accept the retirement of John Ross,

SMS, associate activities director, 8/9/20; Helen Wilfehrt, SMS health/physical education teacher, end of school year.

e. Approve student teacher agreement with Luther College.

Student Representative Report:

No report.

Construction Manager Report on Building Process:

Construction Manager Lee Gruen reported both projects are going very well. The old High School is now in the punch list phase of the project. The feature wall is the only project incomplete at this time. Schwiebert participated in a walk-through and noted the building looks great and the rooms have been cleaned. The Riverview Intermediate renovation footings and foundation work will begin tomorrow with steel work beginning on June 1. The pool area has been filled in with touchup work being done in the upcoming weeks. The pool area has an anticipated completion date of the end of

Superintendent Report: Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent

Schwiebert reported with only one-and-a-half weeks of school remaining distance learning has been going well. High School students will have the ability to finish classes on Friday, May 22; Middle School and Elementary students finishing on Wednesday May 27. Thanks to all of our staff and the Department of Education for the dedication and work during the pandemic. Districts received guidance from the state on May 12 covering summer school which allows for some in-school learning and distance learning. This may be a trial of how the 2020-2021 school year could be structured. The state also released guidance in the areas of Community Education and athletics allowing some to start if they maintain fewer than 10 participants, more information will be coming tomorrow. Kidstop will still operate in the buildings under the current parameters provided by the state. Lastly the policy committee had a brief discussion on the District's Vision/Mission Statement with Schwiebert leaving a message with Gail Gilman from MSBA inquiring on the services MSBA can provide in the planning process.

Enrollment Report:

Superintendent Schwiebert reported on the current enrollment numbers for each school.

School Board Committee Report:

Treasurer Marushin report-

ed on the policy committee meeting held on April 22, highlighting the committee's recommendations to remove policies 105 and 106 due to their redundancies.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Nies to APPROVE #1-45:

## **New Employees/Changes:** Elizabeth Crandall, Grounds,

seasonal grounds, \$12.50/hour,

new position, 5/18/2020; Jill Engelkes, SMS, LTS, \$191.45/ day, replacing Montana Peters, 4/20/2020; Jacob Ferguson, SMS, grade 6, science, \$53,665, MA, Step B, replacing Gary Rosin, 8/26/2020; Susan Fibranz, DSC, Food Service secretary, \$19.61, RIII, Step 1, 8 hours/ day, 222 days/year, replacing Marlyce Plante, 7/1/2020; Carrie Gapinski, ORE, social worker, \$64,487, MA10, Step J, correction in wage, 8/26/2020; Julie Gohman, SHS, family and consumer science, \$63,691, MA30, Step D, replacing Emily Donnay, 8/26/2020; Kristy Gosch, SHS, administrative assistant, \$21.70/hour, RIV, Step 1, 8 hours/day, 222 days/ year, replacing Amie Hentges, 7/1/2020; Gretchen Grunzke, SMS, theater, \$49,985, BA30, Step A, replacing Rick Cicharz, 8/26/2020; Mark Henrich, ORE, physical education, \$60,806, MA, Step I, new position, 8/26/2020; Riley Johnson, RIS, grade 5, \$42,002, BA, Step A, replacing Brittany Olson, 8/26/2020; Bahaa Kadhem, SMS, AM lead custodian, \$20.40/hour, RIV, Step 2, new position, 7/1/2020; Ashley Kelly, PMP, grade 1, \$59,388, MA10, Step E, replacing Peggy Fogarty, 8/26/2020; Brian Larson, SMS, PM lead custodian, \$24.76, RIV, Step 6, new position, 7/1/2020; Belinda Levandowski, RIS, media paraprofessional, \$21.87/ hour, RIV, Step 6, 180 days/ year, new position, 8/31/2020; Mike Maurer, SMS, grade 6 social studies, \$81,535, MS30, Step R, transfer, 8/31/2020; Hannah McKeag, SHS, head girls swimming, \$5,460, BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Viki Sabart, 8/17/2020; Sara Michaelson, SHS, assistant principal, \$105,000, replacing Sascha Hansen, 7/1/2020; Monica Mills, PMP, media paraprofessional, \$21.87/hour, RIV, Step 6, 7.5 hours/day, 180 days/year, new position, 8/31/2020; Hollie Neitzke, SMS, PM ala carte cashier, \$19.09/hour, RI, Step 5, 2 hours/day, replacing Andrea Keske-Sovich, 9/8/2020; Cheryl Nies, ORE, cook, \$23.56/hour, RIV, Step 4, correction in wage, 8/1/2020; Joyce O'Hara, ORE, media paraprofessional, \$21.87/ hour, RIV, Step 6, 7.5 hours/ day, 180 days/year, new position, 8/31/2020; Macrae Perry, Grounds, seasonal grounds, \$12.50/hour, new position, 5/18/2020; Charity Pesta, RIS,

receptionist, \$19.95/hour, RII, Step 2, 8 hours/day, 202 days/ year, new position, 8/15/2020; Brittney Schoephoerster, RIS, assistant principal, \$102,000, new position, 7/1/2020; Kayla Thompson, PMP, grade 2, \$44,044,BA, Step C, replacing Brennan Rath, 8/26/2020; Rachel Westrup, PMP, grade 2, \$57,980, MA20, Step A, new position, 8/26/2020; Katie Young, SMS, grade 6, language arts, \$59,787, MA, Step H, transfer, 8/31/2020; Krista Ziemer, SMS, reading interventionist, \$81,535, MA30, Step R, replacing Katie Young, 8/31/2020.

### New Employees – Pending Licensure:

Alyssa Eggersgluss, ORE, music, \$42,002, BA, Step A, replacing Stacy Mancini, 8/26/2020; Riley Johnson, RIS, grade 5, \$42,002, BA, Step A, replacing Brittany Olson, 8/26/2020; Hannah McKeag, SMS, grade 8 Science, \$42,002, BA, Step A, replacing Mark Krippner, 8/26/2020; Serena Nebel, SMS, special education, \$42,002, BA, Step A, replacing Krista Ziemer, 8/26/2020; Jared Saue, SHS, language arts, \$42,002, BA, Step A, new position, 8/26/2020; Brittney Witt, SMS, Art, \$33,601, BA, Step A (\$42,002), .8 FTE, new position, 8/26/2020.

#### **Leaves of Absence:**

Kari Barten, SHS, SAIL/ math, LOA, 8/31/20-9/25/20; Tracy Christian, PME, para, LOA, 5/8/20-end of school year; Robert Graham, SHS, cleaner, LOA, 5/4/20-end of school year; April Greeley, SMS, math, LOA, 8/31/20-10/11/20; Kaylee Johnson, DSC, lead childcare attendant, LOA, 5/8/20-end of school year; Kristin Kloskin, PME, para, LOA, 5/7/20-end of school year; Alex Kampa, SHS, special education, LOA, 9/22/20-11/3/20; Ed Krafnick, SMS, para, LOA, 5/9/20-end of school year; David Olson, RIS, teacher, LOA, 8/31/20-6/2/23; Julie Schnettler, SMS, para, LOA, 5/11/20-end of school year; Renee Zieglmeier, SMS, para, LOA, 5/9/20-end of school year.

On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Raden, Kramer, Nies, Marushin, Byrd and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Raden TO APPROVE THE 2020-2021 DISTRICT 748 LITERACY PLAN READING WELL BY THIRD GRADE.

On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Raden, Kramer, Nies, Marushin, Byrd and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

Minutes • page 11

PERSONAL FINANCE GUIDE | STARTING OUT

# 10 Money Truths For Grads

A ccording to the National Financial Educators Council and a KeyBank report, 76 percent of college students wish they had more help to prepare for their financial futures.

Another recent study by education tech company EverFi found that the average American college student can only answer one-third of all basic financial questions correctly. This lack of knowledge should be a red flag to students, educators and parents.

College years are a crucial period to establish good financial understanding. Learning about how to build solid credit history and how to practice sound financial habits will carry you through your life.

Here are 10 truths about money you should know before you graduate college.

1. Living with your parents for a few months (or a year) can be a good thing. That is, if you take it for the serious financial opportunity it is. This will likely be the last time in your life when you have a roof over your head and food in the fridge — neither of which you pay for.

**2.** Automate your savings. You might have heard the phrase, "pay yourself first."



Automating your savings is following this philosophy. Plus, if you have your savings automatically transferred when you get paid, you are more likely to keep it there and not spend it on miscellaneous things you won't be able to name later.

3. Your student loans won't just magically disappear. Get to know them. Understand them. How many loans do you have? What are your interest rates? If you can, start paying on them before your grace period ends.

4. Think twice about gradu-

ate school. Graduate school can be incredibly rewarding and hugely beneficial to your career. Just be sure to weigh the financial investment of attending with the benefits of an advanced degree.

**5. Don't ruin your credit.** According to a 2015

Nationwide report, the average college senior graduates with more than \$4,000 in credit card debt. Don't be one of them. If you already carry credit card debt, there is not a more opportune time than right now to get ahead of it.

**6. Roll your spare change.** If you aren't already doing it, this task should go at the top of your list — no need to wait until you graduate. Spare change can add up quickly.

7. Create a budget — but don't be married to it.
Creating and following a budget is the best way to ensure you don't spend more than you make, and stay on top of how you spend your money.
The time after graduating can be tumultuous at best, so understand that your budget might need to change.

8. Don't pass on your employer's 401(k) plan. If your employer offers a matching 401(k) plan — take advantage of it. This is free money. And if you've learned nothing else in college, let it be to never pass up truly free money.

9. Or health insurance. Paying a premium every month might seem expensive because "you never get sick," but think of what would happen if you had to deal with the unthinkable — a bad car accident or a devastating diagnosis. Your policy will pay for itself many times over.

**10. Financial independence takes practice.** Almost no one gets it perfect right out of the gate. Go easy on yourself and keep at it.



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Elizabeth and Jack Hamak

Jack and Elizabeth Hamak of Sartell recently earned their Minnesota Music Teachers Association Challenge Award Trophy, and Grand Challenge Award Trophy. They both participated in numerous MMTA piano programs to earn 2,500 points and 6,000 points.

Carolyn James of Sartell has

been named to the spring semester dean's list for achieving a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher at Alexandria Technical & Community College.

Faith Kowalke and Lea Uzalac of Sartell have been named to the spring semester dean's list at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. To qualify

#### **People**

for the dean's list, students must attain a 3.66 grade-point average.

Hunter Boelz of Sartell was named to the spring semester president's academic honors list for achieving a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher at Dakota State University.

Brianna Hollenkamp of Sartell received a scholarship from Catholic United Financial.

Fifteen Sartell students were named to the spring semester dean's list at North Dakota State University, Fargo. A student must earn a 3.50 grade-point average or higher to qualify. The students are: Peter Amundson, Arianna Christian, Dawson Coleman, Ryan Fernholz, Katelyn Goodwin, Benjamin Grant, Zachary Ittel, Samantha Killmer, Elizabeth Kucala, Bailey Offerdahl,

Mitchell Rolek, Anna Schmitz, Chloe Spoden, Kirk Staiger and Benjamin Yelle.

Sammy Quaal of St. Stephen was named to the spring semester dean's list at North Dakota State University, Fargo. A student must earn a 3.50 grade-point average or higher to qualify.

Hayley Davidson of Sartell was named to the spring semester dean's list at Central Lakes College. The dean's list includes students who earned a gradepoint average of 3.25 to 3.74.

Brooke Hubert of Sartell has been named to the spring semester dean's list for earning a gradepoint average of 3.6 or higher at Bethel University.

Hannah Yackley of St. Stephen has been named to the

spring semester dean's list at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. To be eligible, students must have earned a minimum 3.5 grade-point average.

Tricia Castro of Sartell has been named Student of the Year by the Minnesota Music Teachers Association Foundation. She was



chosen for showing exemplary involvement in her piano studies with MMTA and community service. Her academic achievements included Cathedral High School valedictorian. Castro received \$1,000 from MMTA for being selected as Student of the Year.

### School board approves next year's budget

by Mike Knaak

editor@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell-St. Stephen school district's budget is in good shape for the coming year thanks to growing enrollment, increased state funding and limited effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Enrollment is expected to increase by 110 pupil units - a definition used to set funding amounts - and the state funding formula will increase by 2 percent, resulting in a \$1.8-million revenue increase.

The district is planning for an enrollment of 4,162 students in the coming year.

The pandemic's biggest impact this year was on food ser-

vice and community service budgets because they are based on user fees. The community service fund showed a \$150,000 deficit and food service saw a \$127,000 drop. During distance learning, instead of serving meals to 2,800 students per day, the district prepared about 2,000 breakfasts and lunches.

Food prices will see a small increase for the 2020-21 school year. Secondary school lunch prices will increase 10 cents and breakfasts for all students will increase 10 cents.

Contracts with the district's unions were settled earlier this year so payroll costs have been included in the budget. Staffing changes made because of the expansion to one additional school and reconfiguration of grade levels are included in the preliminary 2020-21 budget. Increases include 22.13 teaching FTEs, 6.5 Custodian FTEs, and six additional bus routes.

The district's longtime goal of maintaining an unassigned fund balance of 10 percent of expenses is closer to being met in the new budget. The fund balance will improve from 9.05 percent to 9.78 percent of expenditures.

The school board approved the revised 2019-20 budget and a preliminary 2020-21 budget at its June 15 meeting.









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Receive \$210 when you open and maintain a new, active CMCU checking account. Available only at the Sartell branch. Use this code on your application to receive the bonus: "Sartell20"

#### **Spin-to-win Door Prizes:**

Stop by our kiosk in the Sartell branch and spin the wheel for a chance to win a prize!

#### **MYCMCU.ORG**

\* Does not apply to existing accounts. Limit one per social security number within the promotion time period. Limited time offer.

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#### PET CARE GUIDE | RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP



ou can never be too diligent in prioritizing your pet's safety. Stay aware of the most common safety concerns for pets year round, and it is less likely you will find your pet in need of emergency care.

#### **HEAT SAFETY**

Pets are exposed to many of the same safety concerns in the heat as their owners. They are prone to heat exhaustion as well as heat stroke.

It is important to keep your pet cool and hydrated. Make sure your pet

always has access to plenty of fresh, cool water and an area where it can rest in the shade (or in air-conditioning).

Warmer weather also is the time to take precautionary measures against fleas and ticks. Be sure to stay up to date with your pet's flea and tick preventive, as well as heartworm preventative medications.

#### **COLD-WEATHER SAFETY**

Pets face just as many safety concerns in cold temperatures as they do in hot temperatures. Ice and snow — even freezing pavement — can be very painful to your cat or dog's paws.

It is important to dry your pet's paws after any time outside, and look for any cracks or dry patches.
Purchasing boots for your dog is

always an option, but applying petroleum jelly is another great and inexpensive alternative.

Also be mindful of your pet feeling cold. Cats and many short-haired dogs need time to acclimate to colder weather, and don't need to be outside for extended periods of time.

#### HOLIDAY SAFETY

The holidays come with their own safety hazards for pets. Decor such as tinsel and ornaments can be dangerous and should be hung out of reach. If you keep a live Christmas tree, be sure to place a tight skirt around its base to prevent your pet from drinking the tree water.

Also be mindful of strings of lights by tucking cords out of reach and using outlet surge protectors.

## PREPARING A PET FIRST-AID KIT

It is important to be ready when your pet needs you. Keep the following items together in a tackle box or cosmetic case:

- Cotton rounds;
- Tweezers;
- Sterile gauze;
- Grease-cutting dish soap;
- Hydrocortisone cream;Rubbing alcohol;
- Benadryl;
- Benadryi;Blanket; and
- Copy of vaccinations and medical records (particularly useful if you are away from your home or you are putting together a kit for your vehicle).



# St. Stephen Legion has urgent need for officers

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

The American Legion Post 221 of St. Stephen is in danger of fading away after thriving for 61 years. And the reason? None of its members has yet agreed to serve as post officers.

"Nobody wants to volunteer," said current commander Michael Legatt, a veteran who served in Germany during the Vietnam War era. "At the last two meetings, we were unable to elect officers because nobody is willing to serve as officers."

What makes the situation worse is the five current officers' terms on the board, including Legatt's, will end July 1. A Legion post without officers cannot hold meetings, according to American Legion charter rules.

There are 58 members in Post 221, Legatt noted, in-

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

June 2

900 block of Seventh Street N. An

officer took a report of missing

items from vehicles. The vehicles

June 3

10th Avenue N. An officer re-

sponded to a report of a black

lab running loose that bit another

dog on the snout while walking

with its owner. The officer was

unable to locate suspect dog.

Victim's dog was taken to vet for

4 p.m. Dog bite. 1400 block

5:07 a.m. Theft from vehicles.

responsible for a crime.

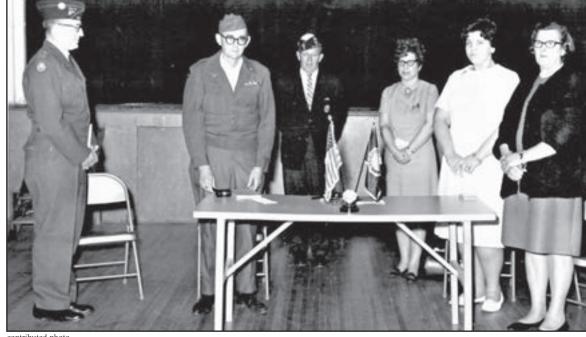
had not been locked.

cluding two veteran women -Bridget Williams and Cortney Schwartz (the current board's finance officer). There is also a St. Stephen Women's Auxiliary headed by Althea Heim.

"If somebody doesn't step up and throw their hat in the ring, we might have to turn in our charter, and that will have to happen within two years for any American Legion charter without officers," Legatt said. "I'm an old person just trying to get change. This is a great organization. I hope we don't have to lose it. What we need is some motivation."

In the past, Legatt said, many times it was just a few members doing the bulk of the work. What's needed, he said, is the kind of motivation for shared responsibility by all of the members.

Legion • page 11



This photo from nearly six decades ago shows the installation of officers to the American Legion Post 221 of St. Stephen. From left to right are Walter Kosel, Lyle Grienke, Ed Cruzen, Laverne Cruzen, Fran Trobec and Josephine Williams. The Cruzens attended to install the officers at the ceremony.

#### June 4

11:45 p.m. CO detector. 100 block 11th Street N. A carbon monoxide detector was reported going off. An officer picked up a moderate reading near hot water heater. The energy company was called and the homeowners were advised to stay outside until utility company fixed issue.

#### June 5

4:15 p.m. Animal assist. 1500 block Pinecone Road. A large turtle was found wedged between a chain-link fence and concrete wall. Officer assisted caller in freeing turtle.

4:45 p.m. Theft from vehicle. Oriole Avenue. Numerous personal items were reported missing from a vehicle. Female suspect was seen in the area before and possibly involved in other vehicle thefts. Officers located woman who turned over stolen items. Charges of motor vehicle tampering and theft filed.

#### **Blotter**

12:45 a.m. Attempted burglary. Lowell Lane. A caller observed someone jump their fence and attempt entry to their shed. A man wearing a red hoodie took off before officers' arrival.

#### June 7

8 a.m. Bear sighting. Brookwood Lane. A bear was sighted near the cemetery, then seen heading through Sartell Street and then seen crossing Fourth Avenue S and into a field about

#### June 8

8:45 a.m. Counterfeit bills. Sauk Drive. A person attempted to pass counterfeit bills. A report was taken and combined with other reports of counterfeit bills in the area.

#### June 9

4:15 p.m. Collision. CR 120 roundabout. Two vehicles collided in the roundabout. There

were no injuries and the vehicles received minor damage.

#### June 10

3:30 p.m. Tree in the road. 600 block Riverside Drive. A large evergreen tree fell onto road. Officers alerted city maintenance who came and moved the tree and debris off the street. Officers diverted traffic around the hazard until the road was cleared.

#### June 11

3:15 p.m. Raccoon. 900 block Morningstar Court. A raccoon was seen in an area where children play, raising a safety concern. An officer found a baby raccoon. A wildlife animal expert was called and advised to leave the animal alone, allowing the mother raccoon to retrieve it.

#### June 12

Noon. Person with a gun. Business on CR 120. A man entered a store displaying a gun. An officer detained the man, collected the gun and unloaded it. The gun was taken as evidence and charges are pending for carrying a weapon without a permit.

#### June 13

12:45 a.m. Unconscious woman. 100 Second St. S. A caller reported an unconscious woman because of an alcohol overdose. The officers assisted loading her into an ambulance.

#### June 14

10:45 p.m. Car trouble. Hwy. 15 and CR 120. A motorist experienced car trouble. The officer stood by with lights for safety until a tow truck arrived.

#### June 15

3:30 p.m. Fraud. An officer met with a person at the police department who reported receiving information in the mail indicating someone applying for unemployment benefits using the person's name.

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## Opinion-

## Our View 100 percent should be census goal

People couldn't be blamed too much if they've forgotten about the 2020 Census. First the coronavirus shut down social and business life. Then the police killing of a black man in Minneapolis focused attention that there really are two Americas - one white and one black - for law enforcement, but also health, work, education and housing.

But the census count continues, and Minnesotans are leading the way.

As of this week, 71.1 percent of Minnesotans responded online, by phone or by mail. That's the best response rate of any state. The national average is 61.6 percent. For those of you who like to keep score, Alaska is the state with the lowest rate at 47.2 percent.

But if we're going to get a complete and accurate count of people and where they live, only 100 percent

If you haven't responded yet, go to census.gov to fill out the form. Depending on the size of your household the process takes just a few minutes and the online form is available in 13 languages. You'll need to count the people who lived in your household on April 1.

The pandemic slowed down some census work including followup mailings and in-person visits for households that have not responded. You can speed up the count and protect your health and the health of census workers by not waiting for an in-person visit.

The Stearns County response rate is 71.9 percent, with 59.9 percent of households responding online. Locally the bragging rights go to St. Stephen, with an 81.3 percent response rate. Sartell follows with 79.6 percent. St. Joseph, with a 71.6 percent rate, needs to

The census count shapes just about every aspect of the community for the next 10 years.

Right now, Minnesota has eight members of the House of Representatives. But if the count shows other states have grown faster than Minnesota, we could lose a representative.

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

The census determines how the country's 435 congressional seats are divvied 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 census count is also used to draw political boundaries for elections at all levels of government.

There's money on the line too. Census results determine how billions of dollars in federal spending flows to our communities for education, transportation, health, housing and employment.

The federal government spends more than \$57 billion a year in Minnesota so there's real money at stake. (In 2018, Minnesotans paid \$725 million more to the federal government than was spent by the feds in the state. Minnesota is one of only eight states with that negative balance of payments.) An undercount means we'll get an even smaller slice of the pie.

Our census participation leads the nation now. But if you haven't been counted, get to it so we're not only first in the nation but we also hit 100 percent.

St. Joseph • Sartell-St. Stephen

# Reaching Everybody! leaders

The ideas expressed in the letters to the editor and of the guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsleaders

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or 1622 11th Ave. SÉ., St. Cloud, MN 56304. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space.

## Free speech is not free of consequences

The incident could have ended tragically.

St. Cloud police tried to disarm a black man in the early morning hours of June 15 and the gun went off. The bullet hit a cop and the man escaped, only to be caught and arrested a few minutes later.

Officer goes to the hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. Man with the gun goes to jail to await formal charges. No officer accused of unnecessarily using deadly force. No black man killed by cops.

The story should have ended there. But it didn't.

Thanks to lies on social media claiming two black men had been shot by police, a large and unruly crowd descended on police headquarters. After protestors threw rocks at the building, police used tear gas to break up the crowd.

The next morning, Police Chief Blair Anderson bluntly blamed the rumors for the unrest.

"It's very dangerous," he said. "This is the type of thing that could have escalated. ... This place could have been on fire over a lie."

The pandemic of lies, threats and abuse flooding social media needs to be cured. This is not an argument about the First Amendment or censorship, which says "congress shall make no law." That means the government. It does not mean Twitter or

Mike Knaak



Facebook can't keep crackpots and people making threats off their plat-

Free speech means you can stand on your soapbox in the public square and say what you want. But you can't libel, slander, threaten or endanger people without consequence.

Stearns County Attorney Janelle Kendall thinks it's time for consequences for those who posted lies about the St. Cloud gun incident. Her office is considering possible charges against the people who initially spread the false information on social media that sparked two nights of riots in south St. Cloud. The challenge will be proving the lies were directly tied to the protesting and the damage that was done.

Good for Anderson and Kendall for calling out the lies. Their comments and threat of legal action do not endanger free speech. But they do remind us when you speak, you are responsible for the consequences of your words.

Liars and crackpots standing on soapboxes in the town square have been around for centuries. We've always believed "bad" speech will be drowned out by "good" speech. But with digital media, new high-tech soapboxes spread those words faster and farther so the good speech never

Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 immunizes websites from legal liability for the comments of their users. When Congress enacted Section 230, it wisely recognized that holding websites legally responsible for user-generated content would cripple the rapidly developing online world. The world has changed.

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other websites that publish comments should face the same consequences for "free" speech as traditional publishers. The Department of Justice wants Congress to change the law so online platforms would face sanctions for a range of illicit conduct if they don't block or delete it.

While we wait for Congress to act, Kendall should investigate and charge the liars who could have sparked violence in St. Cloud. She's successfully led efforts to prosecute and convict sex traffickers, showing she's not afraid to tackle big issues.

The rest of us can take action too. Learn to separate the fact from fiction, opinion from news and question the motives of the poster.

## It was a lynching by 'knee' in broad daylight

It was a vicious public lynching, except the policeman used his knee instead of a noose to squeeze the life out of George Floyd as three cops stood there and watched.

That cruel cold-blooded murder on a Minneapolis street unleashed outrage and demonstrations worldwide and rightfully so. These murders of black boys and men, often by police, have been going on for many decades. And thankfully, people of every color are demanding they stop. Enough is enough!

What is doubly cruel is the lack of justice or accountability. Almost never do such murders lead to convictions (or even arrests) for the perpetrators. Meantime, blacks hold their breaths in anxiety and fear, wondering, "Will it be my son next time? Husband? Brother? Uncle? That kid down the block?"

The four policemen involved in Floyd's murder have been arrested and charged. But will they be convicted? That is always the big question.

Since the Civil War Era, there have been 4,400 lynchings of blacks in America, and those are only the documented ones. There have likely been many more than that carried out, unrecorded, in the dead of night. Lynchings were just one form of psychological terror meant to underline the delusion of white supremacy and to keep uppity "Negroes" in their place as third-class underlings in the American South and, not to forget, in the systemic racistrigged socio-economic structures of the North. At one time there were more Ku Klux Klan goons in the North than the

In Duluth on June 15, 1920, black

**Dennis Dalman** 

Reporter



workers in a traveling circus were accused of raping a young woman, even though a doctor found no physical evidence of rape. A mob of more than 1,000 people stormed the jail in Duluth, grabbed the suspects and tried them in a hastily arranged kangaroo court. Then the furious mob beat them and lynched three of them from a lamppost one block away. Photos were taken and the ghastly images later sold as postcards. Three white men were convicted of rioting, but nobody was prosecuted for the murders.

In the South, under Jim Crow laws, lynchings were not even considered punishable crimes. They were just, oh well, something that happened as retribution for blacks' alleged crimes but most often for getting "uppity" and daring to challenge self-proclaimed white superiority. In many cases, the victims were accused of verbal or physical assaults against white women, even though the overwhelming number of such accusations were determined to be completely unfounded. And of course the accused weren't formally charged or tried in court - just hauled off, sometimes hideously tortured (beaten, castrated, burned) and then, still alive in agony, hung from a tree to die. Sometimes, the lynchings attracted crowds of whites who found such savagery "entertaining."

Those kinds of atrocities were per-

petrated with impunity against blacks for hundreds of years during the long brutal history of slavery, racism and oppression.

In recent times, that lynching mentality has extended to rogue cops itching to over-react with violent force when a black man is "suspected" of anything, even the most minor of infractions, or just because that "suspicious" black man happens to be walking, jogging or driving down a path or a roadway. The lynching mentality is a toxic legacy that gets lodged like a vicious infection in the heads of some

But as we condemn the "bad cops," let's be quick to remind ourselves of the overwhelming number of good law-enforcement employees who put their lives on the line every day and night to protect us and to preserve the public peace. So many of them have been killed in the line of duty.

These massive protests, involving people of all ages and every color, are admirable. But sad to say, there is a grave danger that these passionate people, so dedicated to justice for all, will spread Covid-19 infections after their up-close interactions during marches and rallies.

The protests should probably end for now; they have been effective, powerful expressions of the need for immediate reforms. Let's keep expressing our collective outrage in other ways; let's demand prohibitions on the use of potentially lethal police restraint of suspects (such as choking), and let's insist such murders do not go unpunished or forgotten. It's time for action. Legislators, are you listening?

-Letters to the editor -

## Protests need to lead to policy changes

Leona Wieland, Sartell

"That America has become great on the backs of the poor," has been quoted at times and continues to this day.

Four hundred and one years of slavery. Supposedly slavery ended on June 19, 1865, when President Lincoln told General Granger to pass the words along. Who forgot to pass those words along in ensuing years to, e.g. the whole community at Black Wall Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma, where massacre of 300 happened in 1921? What about the 1964 Civil Rights Acts, signed by President Johnson? When was that supposed to happen, since even more today, communities of black are disenfranchised when it comes to voting? These incidences bring to mind the treaties, our "contracts" with Native Americans. Have any of them been honored? When will we honor and put "walk with talk?" Some are forgetting, while others will not listen and/or deliberately choose to not make the changes for life, liberty, equality for all

I'm ashamed of the profiling and military police brutality. I'm surprised at those who wish to delay in making changes necessary, yet life and lives, businesses and property continue to be wasted. Justice delayed is justice denied.

If people can't see or believe

we have problems, then how much more bad will happen? Denying people their human rights is wrong. When some can stand up, be fed at the trough of excess, as what my husband used to say when referring to greed; while others only get crumbs or less is deplorable. Jesus, could you tell again the stories of Lazarus, the Good Samaritan, the father with two sons, the woman who put in two coins.

What are we to do in Central Minnesota? As cities with churches, businesses and homes burn, how much longer will we allow inequality, whether in housing with denying where people can live, in education where funds aren't evenly spent, where color was against you in applying for jobs?

Social controls have increased as social investment has declined. I appreciated the column about Two Minnesotas. Who would have known those stats? "Spirit Level" by Wilkinson & Pickett, was a great eye-opener a few years ago. No one seems to have updated that publication, so I appreciate the latest numbers from Robert Reich. On Inequality Media, he

- A 500 percent increase of 2.2 million people locked up in our prisons.
  - Spending on policing in

U.S. has tripled, from \$42 billion to \$114 billion in the last 40 years.

- 15 states spend \$27,000/ per prisoner more than what is spent per student on education.
- \$107.5 billion more on policing than on public housing.
- Military spending went from \$437 billion in 2003 to \$936 billion in 2020.
- Fewer people receiving food stamps, public health care and unemployment benefits.

We have yet to imagine what "shoes others walk in." Protest complaints need to move toward policy changes. As families, small businesses, states and tribal nations suffer with the pandemic and these social problems, I think Congress needs to pass the Heroes Act. It used to be that one-fourth of every income tax dollar was spent on military. Now is the time to pass the second bill, Heroes Act, and help our families, our small businesses, states and tribal nations. The investment of \$3 trillion would be worth every penny, choosing a way out of our original sin of slavery. Let us hold our elected leaders accountable to create the changes needed. Lead us with collective consciousness that if our country is to stay free and true to its preamble, each person should be treated equally as each is part of the whole USA.

## **Minutes**

from page 4

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Byrd TO AP-PROVE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH BENTON-STEARNS ED-UCATION DISTRICT.

On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Raden, Kramer, Nies, Marushin, Byrd and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Marushin TO APPROVE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES TO ENTER INTO A FOUR-YEAR LEASE AGREE-MENT WITH APPLE, INC; THE LEASE WILL NOT BE GREATER THAN \$2,442,931.

On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Raden, Kramer, Nies, Marushin, Byrd and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Kramer TO APPROVE REMOVAL OF POLICY 105 - SCHOOL DIS-TRICT GOALS AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS AND POLICY 106 - SCHOOL DIS-TRICT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Raden, Kramer, Nies, Marushin, Byrd and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Byrd TO APPROVE 2020-2021 RESOLU-TION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE.

On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Raden, Kramer, Nies, Marushin, Byrd and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Marushin TO APPROVE 2020-2021 ACA-DEMIC CALENDAR HOLIDAYS FOR INDIVIDUALLY CON-TRACTED EMPLOYEES AND SUPERINTENDENT.

On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Raden, Kramer, Nies, Marushin, Byrd and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Byrd TO APPROVE INDIVIDUAL CON-TRACTS FOR ASSISTANT SU-PERINTENDENT OF LEARN-ING SERVICES; ASSESSMENT

COORDINATOR/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; COMMUNICA-TIONS SPECIALIST; DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY; NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR; SERVER ADMINISTRATOR; LEVEL 2 TECHNICIAN; LEVEL 1 TECH-NICIANS; DIRECTOR OF BUSI-NESS SERVICES; CONTROL-LER; BUSINESS SERVICES SPE-CIALIST; TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR; DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICE; ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FOOD SERVICE; HUMAN RESOURCES ASSIS-TANT; DIRECTOR OF COMMU-NITY EDUCATION; COMMUNI-TY EDUCATION ADULT PRO-GRAM COORDINATOR; COM-MUNITY EDUCATION YOUTH PROGRAM COORDINATOR; ASSOCIATE ACTIVITIES DI-RECTOR; SIGN LANGUAGE IN-TERPRETER.

On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Raden, Kramer, Nies, Marushin, Byrd and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Kramer TO APPROVE SENIOR CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION PLANS AS PRESENTED.

On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Raden, Kramer, Nies, Marushin, Byrd and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Board Work Session -Wednesday, June 3 - District Services Center via Teleconference @ 6:30 p.m.

Future Board Meeting - Monday, June 15 - District Services Center via Teleconference @

Closed Meeting from May 6, 2020 - Superintendent Appraisal Process/System

Official Review of Policies:

The Board had the official review of policies: 101, 101.1, 103, 722, 801, 807, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905 and 907.

The Board had the official first reading of revisions to policies 102, 625, 802 and 805.

Committee Assignments were reviewed.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:49 p.m. was made by Nies and seconded by Raden. On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Raden, Kramer, Nies, Marushin, Byrd and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

/s/ Amanda Byrd, clerk

Publish: June 26, 2020

# A better plan for removing statues

William Todd Manske, Sartell

The present-day Minnesota Twins organization has removed the statue of former owner Calvin Griffith. Let's be smart about this national preoccupation with statue removal and just make all statues illegal, especially religious ones.

If we are smart about this, we could talk the state of Nebraska tourism folks into buying them, crushing them, painting them and creating a new

"It's hard to go back and run

The American Legion Post

the Legion like it was run in the

221 of St. Stephen was found-

ed on March 2, 1959 ,when it

received its charter from the

national headquarters. Its first

commander was Alex Hlebaen,

vice commander John Vouk,

second vice commander Au-

gust Supan, adjutant Joseph A.

Kosel, finance officer John R.

Ferche, sergeant at arms Alex

R. Smoley, chaplain Joseph M.

Omann, service officer James

Slamnik and historian Firmin

Pogatshnik.

Legion

from page 9

old days," he said.

work of art right next to Carhenge. Of course, they would call it Statuehenge.

Maybe they could bury one statue secretly and entomb it. They could call that the tomb of the unknown statue. Social workers could guard it 24/7/365 and offer counseling as the statue-loving mourners paid their respects in the future.

I think God would go along with this because he already more or less outlawed stat-

ues and expressed his opinion in the second commandment about false idols.

If this letter to the editor has offended anyone, let me apologize in advance. The most likely offended would be the state of Nebraska. But not to worry, that's the state where I was born and I can assure you they would probably support anything that brought in more tourist dollars.

All of those men have since passed on, the last being Pogatshnik about a year ago, Legatt noted.

During the course of six decades, the American Legion of St. Stephen did many projects to better the community: Memorial Day and Veterans' Day ceremonies, a get-together to commemorate Pearl Harbor Day, the building of a veterans' monument in the city, scholarships for students, flag-etiquette education programs, helps families whose loved ones are deployed overseas, and much more.

The national American Legion was founded in 1919, the year after the end of World War I. Its purpose was and still is to honor the sacrifices of those who served in the military by enhancing the lives of veterans

and their families at home and abroad. The organization advocates for veterans, helps educate citizens, mentors, and promotes good citizenship, peace and security.

There are currently about 15,000 American Legion posts in the nation with more than three million members.

Current American Legion of St. Stephen board officers, besides Legatt, are adjutant Eric Kreager, finance officer Cortney Schwarts, chaplain Jerome Supan and vice commander Marc Stang.

hoping the American Legion of St. Stephen will continue and gain strength in the coming decades just as it has in the six decades since 1959.

Legatt said he and others are

## Bond approved; city gets credit report praise

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell City Council approved the issue and sale of general obligation bonds for \$6,445,000 at its June 22 meeting.

The interest rate on the bond will be a stunningly low 1.37 percent, thanks largely to Sartell's sterling bond rating (see details below).

The funds will be used for the new public-safety facility (headquarters of fire and police depart-

ments), for street upcoming reconstruction improvements and for improvements to the city's water and sanitary-sewer systems.

The bond issuance and sale was handled by Ehlers & Associates of Roseville.

A credit review of Sartell by Standard & Poor, part of the bonding process, earned - once again - some positive com-

The strong rating, a double A, is, the report

states, "testimony to the however, was adjusted good work done by the city administration and elected officials, both past and present."

The virus pandemic did not impact Sartell's economy nearly as bad as in some cities, according to the report.

Standard & Poor termed the economy and money management of the city "strong" and liquidity and budgetary flexibility "very strong."

Budgetary performance,

downward from "strong" to "adequate" because of future uncertainty due to the pandemic and a potential in the nation for a continuing recession.

The debt load for Sartell is high, the report notes, but aggressive payback by the city is an offsetting factor, it adds.

If the city doesn't issue further debt in the next two years, the debt ratio will be much improved, the report notes.

#### Sartell hires financial director

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell now has a new financial director, who happens to be a graduate of Sartell High School.

Robb Voshell's hiring was approved by the Sartell City Council at its June 22 meeting. Voshell was hired to replace Heidi Ostlie, who resigned to take another job.

Voshell graduated from Sartell High School, then furthered his education at St. John's University, where he also played football. He then went on to start a career in finance for IBM in Rochester.

## 2020 Amateur Baseball Calendar

## Sartell Muskies • St. Stephen Steves • St. Joseph Joes • Sartell Stone Poneys



#### Sartell Muskies

6/28/20	2:00 p.m.	<b>Clearwater River Cats</b>	Clearwater
7/8/20	7:30 p.m.	Becker Bandits	St. Cloud Orthopedics Field
7/10/20	7:30 p.m.	Monticello Polecats	Monticello
7/11/20	1:30 p.m.	St. Joseph Joes	St. Cloud Orthopedics Field
7/12/20	1:30 p.m.	Clear Lake Lakers	Clear Lake



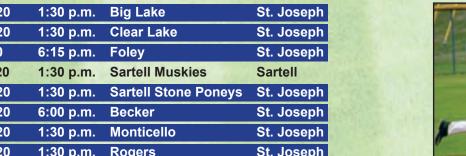
#### St. Stephen Steves

6/26/20	7:30 p.m.	Freeport	Freeport
6/28/20	1:30 p.m.	Avon	St. Stephen
7/5/20	4:00 p.m.	Opole	Opole
7/11/20	1:30 p.m.	St. Wendel	St. Wendel
7/12/20	1:30 p.m.	Opole	St. Stephen
7/18/20	1:30 p.m.	Freeport	St. Stephen
7/25/20	1:30 p.m.	Avon	Avon
7/26/20	1:30 p.m.	St. Wendel	St. Stephen



#### St. Joseph Joes

6/26/20	7:30 p.m.	Albertville	Albertville
6/27/20	1:30 p.m.	Big Lake	St. Joseph
6/28/20	1:30 p.m.	Clear Lake	St. Joseph
7/2/20	6:15 p.m.	Foley	St. Joseph
7/11/20	1:30 p.m.	Sartell Muskies	Sartell
7/12/20	1:30 p.m.	Sartell Stone Poneys	St. Joseph
7/15/20	6:00 p.m.	Becker	St. Joseph
7/18/20	1:30 p.m.	Monticello	St. Joseph
7/19/20	1:30 p.m.	Rogers	St. Joseph





#### **Sartell Stone Poneys**

	0/20/20	7.30 p.m.	Clear Lake Lakers	St. Cloud Orthopedics Field
	6/28/20	1:30 p.m.	Foley Lumberjacks	Foley
	7/1/20	7:30 p.m.	Clearwater River Cats	St. Cloud Orthopedics Field
1	7/10/20	7:30 p.m.	Albertville Villains	St. Cloud Orthopedics Field
	7/12/20	1:30 p.m.	St. Joseph Joes	St. Joseph
	7/15/20	7:30 p.m.	Monticello Polecats	Monticello
	7/18/20	1:30 p.m.	Clear Lake Lakers	Clear Lake
	7/19/20	4:00 p.m.	Big Lake Yellow Jackets	St. Cloud Orthopedics Field



#### For updated information, please visit: www.mnbaseball.org





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