

Newsleaders

Reaching Everybody!

Friday, July 24, 2020
Volume 25, Issue 15
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Garage sale fundraiser set Aug. 12, 13

A garage sale fundraiser, sponsored by the Sartell Senior Connection and Sartell Historical Society, will be held from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 12 and 13 at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Masks are required to enter the sale and social distancing will be enforced. Donations for the sale will be accepted from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 10 and 11 at the community center. Book sale: Large selection of new and used, adult and children's books for sale. No clothing please! All items become property of SSC and SHS upon acceptance. All items left at end of sale will be donated to charity. Proceeds will be split between the groups.

Sartell schools seek parent feedback

Sartell-St. Stephen schools need your assistance to better understand families' thoughts on returning to school this fall. There is a Skyward Family Access survey to be completed for each child. Login to Skyward Family Access between now and Tuesday, July 28, to complete the survey. When the head of household logs in, there will be a banner at the top that links to each child. Alternatively, the survey can be accessed via On-line Forms on the left menu bar. These forms are best completed using a computer, rather than a phone. **The Skyward system did not correctly accept all survey responses submitted July 20 through July 21 at 9:30 a.m.** If you entered your child's information during that period, log in to Skyward Family Access on a computer to verify your survey responses. If you have additional comments, contact Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert via email at jeff.schwiebert@sartell.k12.mn.us.

Explorer's program informational meeting

The Stearns County Sheriff's Office has scheduled a meeting at 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 9, for young people ages 15-21 interested in a law enforcement career. Explorer's Program members learn about law enforcement practices and they volunteer at community events providing security, first aid and traffic control. The group meets from 5:30-9:15 p.m. Sundays. Contact Deputy Eric Schultz at eric.schultz@co.stearns.mn.us to RSVP.

Consultant details education equity audit

by Mike Knaak
editor@thenewsleaders.com

As a first step toward addressing its education equity issue, the Sartell-St. Stephen school board heard a proposal from Equity Alliance MN. The Woodbury-based consultants work with schools to research and develop plans to provide equitable education for all students.

The issue arose earlier this summer after the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota and a renewed interest on systemic

racism. On June 24, students, teachers and community members shared stories of racism, insensitive, hurtful comments about religion and failed attempts to correct the problems.

Sebastian Witherspoon, the Equity Alliance MN executive director, outlined how an equity audit would work if the board decided to hire his firm. Witherspoon's experience includes 10 years with the St. Cloud school district where he was director of equity services.

An audit would start with research and data on the dis-

trict's performance as well as a review of policies. From the research, the audit team would set priorities and identify the district's most pressing needs. Gaps would be addressed by looking at causes and proposing ways to eliminate them. At the end of the process, the team would create a multi-year action plan.

Board members asked Witherspoon to describe in detail how an audit would work.

Pat Marushin asked about how data collection and research would take place. Sebas-

tian described multiple actions including building and classroom observations, surveys, focus groups, community conversations and reviewing the district's own data.

Board member Amanda Byrd wanted to know if the audit would go beyond racial issues to touch on social and economic concerns. Witherspoon said the "focus groups are where the rubber meets the road. Anything that's important to a student or staff will come out in a focus group," he said.

Consultant • page 2



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Having a ball at Sartell Communnity Center
Melissa Preiss (left) of Sartell and Elizabeth Pederson of Sauk Rapids play pickleball July 17 at the Sartell Community Center. The women previously frequented the courts in the Whitney Senior Center which is temporarily closed.

Wilds basketball court stays

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The outdoor basketball court in The Wilds neighborhood of Sartell will stay where it is.

At its July 13 meeting, the Sartell City Council voted unanimously to keep the court as is rather than moving it to Watab Park as once proposed.

The council's action apparently put an end to some rancorous, emotional controversy in recent weeks, a controversy that raised the question of whether racial bias had caused the proposal to move the court.

A group of young black men from St. Cloud had been using the court because their usu-

al court had been closed due to the pandemic crisis. Some neighbors had complained to council members about loud music, foul language and intimidation from the players.

At the June 22 council meeting, it was proposed to move the court to Watab Park and replace it with a half-sized basketball court and a pickleball court. In the planning process, those courts had earlier been proposed for Watab Park.

At the July 13 council meeting, a Sartell resident, Sarah Ufearo, spoke during the open forum portion of the meeting. Ufearo said she is concerned about prejudice in the community and opposes moving the

basketball court.

Council member Tim Elness said the court should remain in The Wilds. Mayor Ryan Fitzthum agreed, noting city staff has made the same recommendation. Council member Jeff Kolb said the noise-and-nuisance issues have seemed to diminished or stopped, which is good, he added, because that was "our big concern."

Fitzthum suggested in the near future the council should consider installing signage in The Wilds park because there have been driving complaints. A portable bathroom might also be a future option.

When moving the basketball

Court • page 2

An ambitious expansion project next to Bernick's Arena in Sartell will be paid for via a city-backed financing method known as a "conduit bond lease."

The name of the project is Scheels Athletic Complex, so-named because of a major corporate donor.

At its July 13 meeting, the council voted 4-1, with member Mike Chisum voting no, to approve the financing plan, in which the city will back the bond sale to acquire the \$5 million for the project. Because of Sartell's excellent bond rating, the loan acquired will have a low interest rate, saving as much as \$50,000 per year in payback costs.

In addition, at its June 8 meeting, the council voted 4-1 to provide the project with more than \$1.5 million during the next two decades. That will include \$450,000 in the city's share of the regional half-cent sales tax revenue; \$482,000 throughout a 20-year period of revenue received from leasing land for a private golf-course; and the city's waiving of fees and other charges for building permits; water-and-sewer access charges; demolition work for the current outdoor rink and shelter and also waiving \$11,000 for utilities.

Other than the up-front sales-tax money, the city funds

Arena • page 3

Council OKs arena bond plan

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Consultant

from front page

Board member Pam Raden asked about Equity Alliance MN’s experience in helping districts like Sartell-St. Stephen. Witherspoon said his group has worked with districts including Northfield, Monticello, Inver Grove Heights, Roseville, White Bear Lake and South St. Paul.

An audit and the resulting action plan is “aimed at all students, not just students of color,” Witherspoon said.

Normally, an audit begins in October after students and teachers get into a routine. The data and research portion takes about three months before beginning the review and crafting an action plan. Marushin wondered about how Covid-19 conditions would affect the in-school work. Witherspoon said

the focus groups and walk-throughs could take place any time during the school year.

During the listening session, several speakers raised the need for an equity director. Board member Jason Nies asked when in the audit creating that position would be appropriate. Witherspoon suggested the best time would be when developing an action plan begins. He said it would be “short-sighted” to hire that position before an audit begins.

The board took no action on the proposal.

Covid-19 update

Schools across Minnesota are waiting to hear the week of July 27 the governor’s plan for opening schools. In the meantime, Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert said principals and staff are working on plans for each of the three possible scenarios for fall. Educators were

directed to prepare for three possibilities: in-school instruction with social distancing and hygiene requirements; a hybrid plan with 50 percent capacity; a return to distance learning.

Administrators have posted specific details about fall plans at www.sartell.k12.mn.us/backtoschool. A survey was sent to all parents asking about fall plans such as if they planned on sending their children back to school. The survey closes July 28. The website includes a video from Schwiebert detailing the district's Covid-19 planning process.

"Safety has to be our No. 1 concern," Schwiebert said in the video. "We desperately want our kids to be in school. As a school superintendent, as a grandfather watching my grandkids, I know how much more they get from in-person learning than they get being at home with their parents having to provide education at the

same time their parents have to make a living."

Once the state has issued its directive, the board plans to meet on Aug. 5 to settle on a detailed plan.

During the summer, the high school has been open for athletes. Activities Director Ryan Hauge said health safety plans include symptom screening, controlling entrance and exits, wearing masks and keeping students in smaller “pods.” He said as far as he can determine, there has been no athlete-to-athlete transmission.

Hauge said he and other activities directors are preparing for fall sports without fans or with a limited number of fans. Sports could go ahead with a limited number of spectators and streaming of events.

The Minnesota State High School League will announce its rules after the overall re-opening plan is settled.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period of filing affidavits for candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 748 shall begin on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, and shall close at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2020.

The general election shall be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020. At that election, three members will be elected to the school board for terms of four years each.

Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the school district clerk, 212 Third Ave. N, Sartell, MN 56377. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for 30 days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same general election.

The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11.

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ Amanda Byrd
School District Clerk

Publish: July 10 & 24, 2020



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Call the Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleaders at 320-363-7741 if you would like to be in the business directory.

Court

from front page

court to Watab Park was first proposed at the June 22 council meeting, council member Mike Chisum had vigorously opposed the move. He said it was being proposed for specious reasons based on just a few complaints.

At the July 13 meeting, Chisum offered an apology to city staff who may have been hurt or offended by his comments at the June 22 meeting. Chisum said nothing done was improper, nor was there any ill will, malice or improper motivations

during the controversy.

“I apologize to anybody I might have hurt or offended,” he said.

Much good has come from the controversy, Chisum said. The players at the court have made good efforts to turn down the volume of music and tone down their language, and those “substantial efforts,” said Chisum, resulted in fewer complaints.

Another positive outcome, he added, is that young people (students, recent graduates) have come forward with social issues that need to be addressed in Sartell. Chisum noted they have told personal stories or relayed incidents they

had witnessed regarding social ills, such as racist comments.

“The stories touched the soul of this community,” he said. “And those stories won’t be forgotten. Everyone is welcome to use our parks and our public amenities.”

Young people, he added, are a force for good change.

“The blessing of all of this is Sartell has been made to ask itself some hard questions and to look at some unpleasant realities,” Chisum said. “Our young people are calling us to be better. Dialogue has started and will continue, and change will happen. We will become a stronger and more united and more welcoming community.”

Filings open for school board, township, St. Stephen offices

Filings open Tuesday, July 28, for candidates for the Sartell-St. Stephen school board and the St. Stephen City Council and mayor.

Three school board positions are open. School board members serve four-year terms. The terms of current school board members Jason Nies, Lesa Kramer and Pam Raden end this year.

Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the school

district clerk, 212 Third Ave. N., Sartell. The filing fee is \$2. A candidate must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or older on assuming office and must have been a resident of the school district for 30 days before the general election. A candidate must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same general election.

St. Stephen voters will

elect two council positions and a mayor. Each position serves a four-year term.

Le Sauk Township voters will elect one supervisor. The township clerk will be accepting affidavits of candidacy at her office at 2293 Pinecone Road, Sartell, or at the township hall, 220 Fourth Ave. S., Sartell, by appointment.

The general election is Nov. 3.

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

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Published each Friday by Von Meyer Publishing Inc.

The Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleaders is the legal newspaper for the Sartell-St. Stephen school district and city of St. Stephen

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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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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ST. JOSEPH NEWSLEADER, 1622 11th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304.

Arena

from front page

would be paid toward the project throughout a 20-year period – about \$130,000 per year.

So far, the Sartell Youth Recreation Association and the Sartell Youth Hockey Association have raised about \$3 million in donations and long-term pledges for the athletic complex, according to project planners.

The total project is estimated to cost \$5.2 million. The new arena, to be built just south of the current one, would be an enclosed structure with fabric roof that could be used all year, including an artificial turf in summer for any number of sports, as well as for community events such as concerts and trade shows.

At the July 13 meeting, five men spoke in favor of the city-private partnership.

Chad Ritter, president of the Sartell Youth Recreation Association, said that nearly 20 years ago, when the Bernick’s Arena was built with financial help from the city, many were opposed to that plan. Since then, however, the arena has proven to be very successful and has operated with fiscal responsibility. The Scheels Athletic Complex, Ritter added, will cater to multiple families with multiple backgrounds. He also said he is confident in the future there will be more sales-tax money to build other recreational amenities in Sartell, such as perhaps a pool or skate park.

Cory Oberg, who has coached hockey, said he believes the new complex will bring lots of value to the community. He said he and his family moved to Sartell largely because of hockey amenities.

Brian Zimney worked on a committee for the Scheels Athletic Complex project. He said he met with many business people, including restaurant owners, who said an athletic

complex would be a big plus for business. It could encourage residents stay in town for sports and other events and attract many out-of-towners to the city, Zimney said.

Craig Ritter, a member of the athletic-complex finance committee, said the complex would be an asset to Sartell in many ways for many people.

Three people spoke against the city helping fund the athletic complex.

Summbla Anjum said the city needs more of a variety of activities and amenities for a wider variety of people. Hockey, she said, is limited to just a certain group of kids. What’s needed, she said, are amenities all people could enjoy, such as a pool and a library.

Joe Perske, former Sartell council member and mayor, said the council passing such a financial arrangement between the city and a private interest is unprecedented in Sartell history. The council and residents, he said, do not know enough of the details – the costs of operating the complex and the exact amount of contributions given or promised at this point. The city, he said, is guaranteeing a payment of \$27,000 a month for 20 years.

“Where’s the transparency?” Perske asked. “Where’s the public input?”

The city, he said, is signing on for a \$5-million loan without any guarantees. The outdoor ice sheet now next to the Bernick’s Arena should be kept in place for all kids to use, Perske said.

Council member Chisum said he reluctantly voted against the financial loan plan, even though he thinks hockey is good for Sartell and that he appreciates the hard work hockey enthusiasts have done to raise so much money.

Since 2003, when the Bernick’s Arena was built with city help, Sartell has spent \$1,427,000 for the arena, including a recent \$700,000 parking lot. Recently, the council voted to pitch in another

\$1,563,324 throughout a 20-year period for the Scheels Athletic Complex, Chisum said.

He said he agrees the complex would benefit a lot of kids but that kids who are not especially athletic would not benefit from it.

“I’m very concerned about being ask to guarantee that loan,” said Chisum, adding there are too many “what if” questions: What if the pandemic cancels hockey play? What if corporate sponsors shut down businesses like the recent closing of HealthPartners in Sartell? What if business owners who pledged money decide to sell their businesses? What if private individuals who made pledges lose jobs or suffer financial setbacks?

Chisum said the council must be very attentive to such details because taxpayers’ money is on the line. Council members, he said, should be able to scrutinize the finances of the project planners.

“At this point, I cannot commit the city’s money for a 20-year period based on what I know today,” Chisum said. “Maybe more information would allay my concerns . . . Is this the right project for right now?”

Before voting, council members and the mayor praised the hockey enthusiasts for their hard work in raising funds and agreed the complex, with its indoor winter capabilities, would benefit all kinds of sports, as well as community activities such as flea markets and concerts. They also agreed the complex would have a substantial positive effect on the entire community.

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.

July 7

12:45 p.m. Mail theft. 800 block of 10th Avenue N. Management reporting they have video of two suspects stealing mail. An officer collected information for further investigation.

July 8

3 p.m. Disorderly conduct. 400 block of 2½ Street N. Officers were called to a disorderly conduct complaint. The suspect was uncooperative at first but calmed down and parties were able to come to an agreement.

July 9

8:30 p.m. Domestic disturbance. Twin Rivers Court area. Officers were called to a domestic in progress. A witness reported seeing a woman in a car hit by a man who was the driver. The woman escaped and the man was taken into custody for domestic assault. Attention was declined.

July 10

1:20 a.m. Crash. 27th Street and Pinecone Road. An on-board computer message report-

July 11

9 a.m. Speeding. 300 block of Riverside Avenue S. An officer stopped a driver for speeding 47 mph in a 30-mph zone. Driver was issued a citation for speed and no proof of insurance.

July 12

2:30 a.m. Impaired driver. CR 1. An officer observed unusual driving conduct of vehicle heading north on Riverside. The vehicle was stopped and alcoholic drinks were found near the female driver who was presenting further signs of impairment. Field sobriety tests were administered with several deviations noted. The woman was placed in custody and charged with DWI, underage consumption and underage possession and then released to a sober individual.

July 13

5 p.m. Collision. Connecticut Avenue and CR 120. A two-vehicle collision was blocking traffic. There were no injuries and the vehicles were towed.

Blotter • page 6

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People

Thirteen Sartell students have been named to the spring semester dean’s list at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Students on the dean’s list achieved a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. The students are **Dylan DeZurik, Emily Driste, Trevor Dummer, Rachel Eisenschenk, Alana Frie-hl, Jack Hennemann, Bennett Hill, Wyatt Hill, Nathaniel Miller, Trevor Raths, Connor Schad, Logan Stockinger** and **Alex Virnig**.

Five Sartell students were recently named to the second semester dean’s honor list at Concordia College, Moorhead. They are the following: **Maiah Cameron, Patreece Engelmeyer, Amanda Flemming, Hannah Kosloski** and **Jadyn Lauermann**.

Nine Sartell students have been named to the spring semester high honor list for achieving a 4.0 straight A average at Minnesota State University-Mankato. The students are **Anna Bakken, Kendra Bokelman, Madeline Davis, Sydney Dille, Madeline Eckhoff, Kira Haglin, Lauren Lindmeier, Megan Pederson** and **Virginia Pilles**.

Three Sartell students graduated from the College of St. Benedict. **Madison Flaherty** earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing, also earning honors in egregia cum laude, which signifies a cumulative grade-point average of 4.0. **Hannah Windschitl** earned a bachelor’s degree in environmental studies. **Hannah Wohletz** earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing, also earning honors in egregia cum laude, which signifies a cumulative grade point average of 4.0. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, a commencement ceremony was not held this year. The college is looking at a spring 2021 date for the ceremony, subject to the approval of government agencies and health officials.

Five area students graduated from St. John’s University. They are the following: **Adam Baloun** of Sartell earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. **Cullen Chisholm** of Sartell earned a bachelor’s degree in global business leadership. **Mitchell Dockendorf** of St. Stephen earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting. **Jacob Fernholz** of Sartell earned a bachelor’s degree in communication. **Isaac Hesse** of Sartell earned a bachelor’s degree in music. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, a commencement ceremony was not held this year. The university is looking at a spring 2021 date for the ceremony, subject to the approval of government agencies and health officials.

Thirty-three Sartell students recently graduated from St. Cloud State University.

The students are **Laurie Ackerman**, master’s in business administration; **Amy Barber**, master’s in rhetoric and writing; **Darick Beam**, bachelor’s in hydrology; **Casey Becker**, bachelor’s in social work, summa cum laude; **Kallie Belling**, master’s in rehabilitation and addiction counseling; **Jordyn Brandt**, bachelor’s in biomedical sciences, magna cum laude; **Nathan Brown**, master’s in college counseling and student development;

Shelby Chollett, doctorate in educational administration and leadership; **Alexyss Corpus**, bachelor’s in communication studies, cum laude; **Othman Doudin**, bachelor’s in mathematical economics; **Rochelle Dyer**, graduate certificate in educational administration; **Cynthia Fitzthum**, doctorate in higher education administration; **Angelica Hagen**, bachelor’s in art education, cum laude; **Luke Henderson**, bachelor’s in geography, cum laude;

Hannah Judovsky, master’s in communication sciences and disorders; **Paige Jutz**, bachelor’s in music, magna cum laude and bachelor’s in music teaching, magna cum laude; **Luke Kessler**, bachelor’s in English, cum laude; **Brittany Kircher**, master’s in marriage and family therapy; **Tyler Matlotky**, master’s in counseling psychology: school counseling; **Karen Middendorf**, bachelor’s in liberal studies, magna cum laude;

Christen Neil, bachelor’s in medical laboratory science, cum laude; **Stacy Nelson**, bachelor’s in accounting, magna cum laude; **Katherine Pankratz**, bachelor’s in management; **Nicole Peikert**, bachelor’s in nursing, magna cum laude; **Talon Piwowar**, bachelor’s in social studies education; **Darien Prow**, bachelor’s in manufacturing engineering technology;

Marissa Rapaway, bachelor’s in mathematics teaching, cum laude; **Alvaro Robles Ramirez**, bachelor’s in mechanical engineering; **Tehreem Sabir**, master’s in teaching English as a second language; **Katherine Strand**, bachelor’s in community psychology, cum laude; **Jennifer Thompson**, bachelor’s in social work, summa cum laude; **Robert Tucker**, master’s in marriage and family therapy; and **Jarrett Weispfennig**, bachelor’s in nursing, summa cum laude.

Kaitlyn Widvey of Sartell has been named to the spring semester dean’s list for achieving at least a 3.7 grade-point average at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Twelve Sartell students have been named to the spring semester honor list for achieving a 3.5-3.99 grade-point average at Minnesota State University-Mankato.

The students are the following: **Emma Boenish, Cora Cielinski, Madison Dobis, Mathew Huver, Anna Kucala, Gavin Linn, Bailey Mumm, Colin Nord, Jarrett Rogers, Taylor Schmidt, Cole Zunker** and **Kelsi Zyvoloski**.

Sixty-four Sartell students were named to the spring semester dean’s list for achieving at 3.75 grade-point average or higher at St. Cloud State University.

The students are **Makinzie Agresto, Jessica Andrews, Osama Ayyub, Christopher Baugh, Tara Berger, Jordyn Brandt, Riley Buck, Kyle Cielinski, Brent Clapp, Brandon Cleveland, Sydney Davidson, Kathryn Davidson-Paton, Ahmed Doudin, Kelly Duong, Tyler Elness, Oluwatomilade Femi Jegede, Triumph Femi Jegede, Samuel Gielen, Alexis Haas, Nash Hanson,**

Luke Henderson, Anna Hince, Kieran Idzerda, Luke Kessler, Emmitt Kotaska, Marena Kouba, Tasha Kurtz, Samuel Larson, Christopher Leach, Anna Lehto,

Michael Lindstrom, Donovan Magney, Kayleen Martins, Andrew Maselter, Spencer Meier, Jordan Moyer Giulio, Daniel Muntifer-ing, Katherine Muntifer-ing, Stacy Nelson, Courtney Olund,

Madelyn Ouart, Logan Payne, Nicole Peikert, Cera Perrault, Gregory Renner, Laurie Robles Ramirez, Jordan Roller, Katherine Ronyak, Gabrielle Schlagheck, Derek Schmidt,

Haylee Schmidt, Nathan Schmidt, Mariah Schwankl, Aaron Soderholm, Addison Stavos, Katherine Strand, Alexis Streit, Courtney Strom, Rachel Taszarek, Megan VanHeel,

Jarrett Weispfennig, Hannah Welsh, Marisa Wood and **Lidiah Zipp**.

Morgan Anderson of Sartell has been named to the spring semester dean’s list for achieving a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher at Augustana University, Sioux Falls.

Benjamin Dullinger of St. Stephen was named to the spring semester dean’s list for achieving a 3.75 grade-point average or higher at St. Cloud State University.

Kayla Nelson of St. Stephen was named to the spring semester dean’s list for achieving a grade-point average of 3.66 or higher at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Twenty-four Sartell students have been named to the spring semester dean’s list for achieving a grade-point average of 3.66 or higher at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

They are the following: **Brinn Akervik, Mohannad Alkhatib, Logan Anding, Joseph Becker, Rita-Marie Chediac, Amna Dogar, Bailey Dumonceaux, Sadie Folsom, Caroline Gruebele, Isabel Gugger, Kathleen Harthan, Cole Jurek, Kali Killmer, Allison Koopman, Kirsten Koskinen, Marissa Kouba, Abigail Lahn, Marisa Murphy, Jialong Ren, Elizabeth Ruder, Taylor Schoenberg, Abby Silman, Rory Spanier** and **Matthew Weno**.

Sartell High School announced its Top 11 graduates for 2020.

The students are **Sarah Ufearo**, valedictorian; **Janagan Ramathan**, salutatorian; **Lydia Anderson, Elizabeth Crandall, Ella Krauel, Elaine Lo, Paige Mackenthun, Gretta Mahowald, William Nemeth, Morgan Van Beck** and **Jacob Wieland**.

Eight Sartell students were named to the spring semester dean’s list for earning a 3.5 or higher grade-point average at Bemidji State University.

They are the following: **Ryley Emslander, Jack Hammerel, Taylor Harren, Gabrielle Linn, Marissa Martins, Thomas Raden, McKenna Rohe** and **Cassidy Sarff**.

Marena Kouba of Sartell and graduate of Sartell High School, has been named a College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of American Scholar All-American for the 2019-20 season. Kouba is a junior majoring in communication studies. The award recognizes students who achieved a grade-point average of 3.50 or higher and were invited to compete at their respective national championship. Selections were drawn from 209 colleges and universities.

Four Sartell students were recently named to the spring semester dean’s list at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

They are the following: **Elizabeth Botz, Tyler Kadlec, Jordan Mareck** and **Emma Zenzen**. Dean’s list members have a minimum semester grade-point average of 3.70.

Cindy Raven of Sartell graduated May 27 with an associate’s degree in liberal education with honors from Normandale Community College, Bloomington.

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 recent contributors! Any amount is greatly appreciated.



David Deminsky

On July 8 a big Amateur Baseball Milestone took place. Veteran left-handed pitcher **David Deminsky** recorded his 1,000 amateur strikeout as he faced the first batter of the game against the Becker Bandits. He went on to record six more strikeouts in five innings. Deminsky has been playing with the Sartell Muskies since the 2006 season.

Jacob Hoekstra of Sartell has been named to the spring semester dean’s list for achieving a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul.

Two golfers recently sunk holes-in-one at Pine Ridge Golf Course, Sartell. On June 24, **Brandon Duray** of Rice sunk his on the 166-yard second hole. On July 1, **Dan Rathbun** of Sauk Rapids scored on the 125-yard eighth hole.

Thomas Gieske of Sartell was named to the dean’s list for attaining a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher during spring semester at Mayville State University, Mayville, North Dakota.

EvaLynn Jundt and **Lauren Schofield** of Sartell have been named to the spring semester president’s list for achieving a perfect 4.0 grade-point average at Bemidji State University.

Lucas Bentrud of Sartell graduated from Bethel University, St. Paul, following the spring 2020 semester. Bentrud earned a bachelor’s degree in business. He is the son of Beth and David Bentrud.

TCHS hosts first-ever ‘Kibbles, Bids’ telethon

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

For the first time in 19 years, pets and their people families could snuggle up together during the annual “Wine, Kibbles and Bids” fundraising event for the Tri-County Humane Society.

In previous years, the event featured a gourmet dinner, wine tasting and silent auction at the Gorecki Center on the campus of the College of St. Benedict. Last year, \$80,000 was raised.

This year, because of the virus crisis, the event was an online entertainment June 18 that combined a silent auction, pre-recorded fun video skits and a telethon. Technical glitches marred the skits. Those skits, however, can now be seen and heard on the TCHS Facebook site.

The hosts/emcees of the virtual version of “Wine, Kibbles and Bids” were Brook Stephens, music director of Wild Country 99 radio; and Tauna Quimby, manager of fund development for the Tri-County Humane Society.

One of the whimsical skits was performed by the Lolmasteymaugh family of Sartell – parents Rachel and Ken and children Warner (videogra-



contributed photo

The new facility for the Tri-County Humane Society is well underway and should be ready to open by fall. The building is estimated to cost \$3.5 million; about \$2 million of that cost has been raised so far.

pher), Evie and Anna. On the video, titled “Rabbit on the Loose!,” family members are looking all over, high and low, in a frantic chase to find their missing bunny. Finally, they find their pet – a cuddly cloth stuffed bunny.

As of press time, the total amount of money raised was still being tallied. However, the TCHS Manager of Fund Devel-

opment said June 22 that at least about \$50,000 was raised at last count, including from telethon calls and the silent auction, which raised \$16,098. In addition, TCHS board member Bill Nelson raised an astonishing amount of \$33,223.41 – all from individual locations. Nelson encouraged friends, acquaintances and others to contribute to his TCHS online

“funding jar.” Nelson, a private investigator, also owns a business that teaches martial arts. One of his young students, 11 years old, contributed the yearly savings of his spending allowances – a total of \$399.

The money raised will be used for the TCHS’s medical fund. Last year, at TCHS, 2,350 surgeries were performed on animals, mostly for spaying and neutering. Almost 2,250 were spayed or neutered. Other statistics from last year included 3,668 animals adopted and 1,161 animals placed in foster care, thanks to so many foster “parent” volunteers.

Wine, Kibbles and Bids, Quimby said, is a perfect example of how the TCHS is “a movement comprised of animal lovers from throughout the area.” They include individuals, groups and supportive businesses, she added.

Many businesses contributed money and talents to Wine, Kibbles and Bids, including Mugsy’s Beans, Remedy Beauty & Body, Jules’ Bistro, Rinke Noon law firm, InteleCONNECT Inc., Wild Country 99, Big Cat Digital Marketing and Boser Construction, which is building the TCHS’s new facility.

During the telethon, Quimby and Stephens shared many per-

sonalized anecdotes about the importance of pets in so many people’s lives.

Quimby recalled a springer spaniel named Praline whose owners came to the TCHS sobbing because they had to give the pet up because they were moving to a place that wouldn’t allow for dogs. Praline has also developed a tumor, and the family could not afford the cost of treatment. TCHS took care of the tumor and other medical needs. Later, the tumor returned, and one of the dog’s legs had to be amputated because of it. After healing, she was her old self – running and chasing tennis balls, just as agile as any four-legged dog. Soon, she was adopted into a “forever home.”

During the pandemic, Quimby noted TCHS staff have become aware of how social-isolation safety measures, especially among elderly people, can make them feel lonely, disconnected and devastated. Pets, she said, can and do offer love, companionship and hope.

Quimby told about a woman named Kourtney, one of whose beloved dogs, Maddy Lynn, died, leaving the other dog, Mona, listless and lonely for her buddy. So Kourtney ad-

TCHS • page 6

EMERALD ASH BORER

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

EAB is an invasive pest from Asia and threatens the ash tree population in the United States. In Michigan alone it has killed over 20 million trees since its discovery in 2002. Through a combination of natural spread and human activity it is now found in Ohio, Maryland, Illinois, Indiana, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Arizona, Kentucky, Kansas, Colorado, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, placing millions of additional ash trees at risk. It will continue to spread and is probably a permanent member of our insect population.



EMERALD ASH BORER: It has killed MILLIONS of ash trees in North America. It’s now present in central Minnesota, and when your ash tree becomes infected **IT WILL DIE!** **Schwegel’s Landscaping and Tree Service** has a GUARANTEED method for treating emerald ash borer. They can help you save your mature ash trees. But the treatment period for 2020 has nearly ended. If you have ash trees on your property CALL TODAY! **Schwegel’s Landscaping and Tree Service. 320-293-4438** is a LOCAL licensed and bonded company.



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Your EAB treatment specialist!

TCHS

from page 5

opted a dog who was a quiet, frightened, timid dog at the TCHS shelter building. Back home after adoption, it took no time at all until Nalla, as she was named, became outgoing, friendly and a constant buddy to Mona.

Kourtney's father had lived alone for 15 years, and she just

knew he needed a pet companion, even though he said he'd never wanted a dog. Much as she hated to part with her "baby" Nalla, she convinced her father to take the dog for just a two-week trial period.

Kourtney wrote to the TCHS staff: "Nalla has changed my dad's life since day one. I can't tell you how many times he has thanked me. He said 'You know Kourt, it seems you knew even when I didn't exactly know what I needed.' Although we

missed Nalla, we knew her purpose was to be with my dad. The joy, companionship and love she brings to him far outweigh any sadness from us missing her."

There are many ways to help TCHS: doing volunteer tasks; becoming a volunteer foster-care person; shopping at the TCHS retail store for pet toys, pet products and care items; adopting a pet; or donating to the TCHS building fund. A new \$3.5-million building at the site in east St. Cloud is now under construction. It will be twice the size of the current facility. Almost \$2 million of the cost has been raised so far.

To take a virtual video artist-conception tour of the new building, visit www.happinesshappenshere.org

Or to learn more about TCHS, visit its main site at www.tricountyhumanesociety.org.

Donations can be made on that site or checks can be sent to TCHS, 735 Eighth St. NE, St. Cloud, MN 56304.



contributed photo

Bill Nelson, a board member of the Tri-County Humane Society, single-handedly raised \$33,223 during the society's 'Wine, Kibble and Bids' recent telethon. In the photo above, Nelson is shown with one of his cats.

The TCHS is open from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday, but for the foreseeable future it's recommended that people call to make an appointment before visiting. The retail

store, however, is always open during those hours, although the people allowed into the store at any one time must be limited.

Blotter

from page 3

July 14

3:15 p.m. Slick road. Pinecone Road S. and Scout Drive. An officer came upon slick road conditions. Upon closer examination it was found to be hydraulic fluid assumed to have been leaking from a passing vehicle. City maintenance was called to clean up.

July 15

3:15 a.m. Suspicious activity. 1700 2½ St N. A man and woman were seen going through mailboxes. The caller went to confront suspects and they ran away, dropping all the mail. Officers scanned the area with no sign of suspects in the mailbox tampering. However, they did apprehend an underage intoxicated male who was also in

July 16

9 a.m. Traffic stop. 400 block of 19th Avenue N. A driver was stopped and given verbal warning for speed.

July 17

5:30 p.m. Collision. Second Street S. and Fourth Avenue S. One vehicle rear-ended the other vehicle and the airbag deployed. Minor injuries were looked at by medics and a private party took a person to the hospital. One vehicle was towed. Use of phones while driving was a factor in the crash.

July 19

1 p.m. Intoxicated person. Riverside Avenue N. A caller was concerned that an individual was inebriated to the point of being unable to care for himself. Concerned

July 20

5:30 a.m. Vandalism. Parking lot along Amber Avenue. Multiple vehicles were vandalized. One vehicle was reported stolen. The onboard safety system activated the engine lock and was able to pinpoint vehicle in the area not far away. Investigation in progress.

4 p.m. Hazard. 1100 block of Oak Pond Drive. A caller reported a crash that happened earlier that day, a car vs. mailbox. The crash left a large amount of oil along the road, creating possible unsafe conditions for drivers. An officer determined slick roadway was a hazard. City maintenance called.



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How to Find a Lost Pet

Losing a pet can be a scary experience. It may cause anxiety and leave you thinking unclearly. Do your best to keep a level head and develop a plan to bring your pet back home.

BE PREPARED

The best way to bring your lost pet home is to let people know that he has a home. You can do so through effective preparation. Identification tags are incredibly inexpensive and can be a key component in rescuing your pet. This tag should feature your pet's name, your phone number and any other contact information you feel comfortable sharing.

Talk to your vet about microchipping your pet. This chip helps shelter, animal control and veterinarian's office workers find a lost pet's owner.

A microchip may cost a bit more than an ID tag but is one of the most effective ways to find a lost pet.

TELL THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Word of mouth also should be a key part of your mission. Alerting the neighborhood in which your pet went missing will cause many people to be on the lookout. Having a large number of people aware of your missing pet will give you an advantage in recovery.

There are different ways you can choose to alert the

public of your missing pet. Utilizing social media accounts is a great way of getting your message out to the masses. Look for a spot in your local newspaper's advertising section that is dedicated to a lost-and-found for your community.

The old-fashioned flyer is another way to get your message to a large group of people. Your flyer should contain your pet's picture, age, breed and any distinguishing features that will make it easy to identify.

Post these flyers in high-traffic areas, such as grocery stores and community centers once you obtain the required permission.

CALL LOCAL SHELTERS

If your pet has been missing for several days, it is possible that a local shelter already has it in its custody. Call your local shelters to see if any of their recent drop-offs match your description. You can always go there in person to check for yourself.

It is a good idea to provide shelters with a picture of your missing pet as soon as you realize he or she is missing. By doing this, you will be contacted if your pet does happen to be picked up.



Pine Cone Pet Hospital

Drop-off appointments, extended evening & emergency appointments are available



Choosing a Credit Card

Money is a fact of life — and yet, there are times when you just won't have enough. This is especially true for the larger purchases you will inevitably make throughout your life.

A credit card can be a very useful and lifesaving financial tool, but it also can be a quick path to financial ruin if you don't approach it with respect and a certain amount of caution.

If you are looking to get your first credit card or to reopen a card after an extended absence, here are three aspects you need to consider before signing on the dotted line.

UNDERSTAND YOUR NEEDS

Understanding what you want a credit card for is a necessary first step to making a financially sound decision. For which expenses do you intend to use your credit card?

For example, if you are looking for a card to serve in "emergencies only," you will want to look for a major credit card provider.

If your intent is to use it to build a positive credit history, you will do better to set your limit low. You also should choose a card with a more specific purpose, such as a

specific store's credit card.

MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU — NOT AGAINST YOU

If you are a frequent traveler, look for a card that offers frequent flyer miles. If you love to shop a particular brand, consider that brand's card as you will likely receive dis-

counts otherwise unavailable to you.

There also are many cards with cash back rewards for every dollar you spend. The bottom line is if you have to charge something, make sure the provider gives you a little something for the privilege of choosing its card.

KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO PAY — BESIDES THE BILL

Pay your bill in full every month. If this is not possible (it happens, especially when emergencies arise), plan to pay off your bill in as few payments as possible.

Understand that your pur-

chases are not the only thing you are paying for. The APR (annual percentage rate) will impact your total amount due if you don't pay your bill in full.

Know what this rate is for each card you are considering, and avoid cards with APRs above 20 percent.



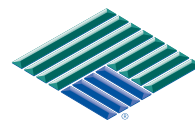
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PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748
JUNE 15, 2020
DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER BOARD ROOM VIA TELECON-
FERENCE

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 5:06 p.m. by Chair Jeremy Snoberger. Members present via teleconference: Snoberger; 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 APPROVE 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.

During the public comment opportunity, Kristen Petersen, 827 Ninth Ave. N., spoke on the topic of racial equality. Zurya Anjum, 1609 Blackberry Circle, spoke on the topic of an equity coordinator.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Nies to APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS A.4.a – A.4.i 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.4.a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on May 18, 2020

Minutes of the work session held on June 3, 2020

A.4.b Checks in the amount of \$1,668,046.79 as presented:

General Fund	1,167,344.17
Food Service Fund	66,781.30
Transportation Fund	364,588.84
Community Service Fund	29,580.40
Capital Expenditure Fund	39,752.08

Check numbers 178562 – 178829

ACHs in the amount of \$2,992.42 as presented:

General Fund	2,957.42
Food Service Fund	35.00

ACH numbers 192000208-192000221

Receipts in the amount of \$6,578,414.43 as presented:

General Fund	4,732,812.21
Food Service Fund	129,875.33
Community Service Fund	47,707.25
Capital Expenditure Fund	19,735.01
Building Fund	1,984.79
Debt Service Fund	1,631,910.16
Scholarship Trust	6,100.00
Internal Service Fund	8,289.68

Receipts 47657 - 47719

Wire transfers in the amount of \$401,817.91 as presented:

General Fund	18,563.14
Food Service Fund	1,705.07
Transportation Fund	2,976.16
Community Service Fund	165.44
Capital Expenditure Fund	22,942.20
Building Fund	10,001.44
Internal Service Fund	345,464.46

Wire transfers 201900901-201900971

Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$1,504,937.43 as presented:

Building Fund	1,504,937.43
---------------	--------------

Check numbers 600994 to 601022

A.4.c Accept the following donations:

Football, 8/16/2019, \$350, Anonymous; Football, 8/26/2019, \$225, St. Cloud Foot and Ankle; Football, 8/26/2019, \$1,300, SAYFA; Football, 9/5/2019, \$250, Twin City Garage Door; Football, 9/6/2019, \$250, MCSI; Football, 9/20/2019, \$700, Kwik-Trip; Boys Hockey, 11/6/2019, \$7,400, Sartell Playmaker Association; Class of 2023, 12/4/2019, \$51.80, Anonymous; Girls Soccer, 12/4/2019, \$300, Anonymous; Girls Soccer, 12/10/2019, \$300, Soccer Association; Girls Hockey, 12/12/2019, \$2,000, Stormn' Sabres Booster Club; SMS Student Council, 12/16/2019, \$200, Sauk Rapids Axillary;

Football, 12/16/2019, \$500, SAYFA; Nordic Ski, 12/23/2019, \$565, Booster Club;

Boys Basketball, 12/23/2019, \$480, Booster Club; Boys Swim, 12/23/2019, \$370, Booster Club; Boys Hockey, 12/23/2019, \$360, Booster Club; Girls Basketball, 12/23/2019, \$315, Booster Club; Gymnastics, 12/23/2019, \$280, Booster Club;

Dance, 12/23/2019, \$425, Booster Club; Wrestling, 12/23/2019, \$360, Booster Club;

Girls Hockey, 12/23/2019, \$280, Booster Club; Wrestling, 1/24/2020, \$4,048.36, Sartell Wrestling Club; Tech Club, 1/28/2020, \$100, Jesse and Rachel Westrup; Tech Club, 1/28/2020, \$100, Ryan and Elizabeth Iverson; Tech Club, 1/28/2020, \$500, St. Cloud Window; Track and Field, 2/3/2020, \$2,000, Booster Club; Cross Country, 2/3/2020, \$650, Booster Club; Boys Golf, 2/3/2020, \$1,000, Booster Club; Baseball, 2/3/2020, \$1,000, Booster Club; Football, 2/3/2020, \$565, Booster Club; Boys Soccer, 2/3/2020, \$1,495, Booster Club; Girls Golf, 2/3/2020, \$1,000, Booster Club; Gymnastics, 2/3/2020, \$1,000, Booster Club; Girls Swim, 2/3/2020, \$415, Booster Club; Volleyball, 2/3/2020, \$1,500, Booster Club; Softball, 2/3/2020, \$1,000, Booster Club; Boys Tennis, 2/3/2020, \$335, Booster Club; Girls Soccer, 2/3/2020, \$1,495, Booster Club; Boys Lacrosse, 2/3/2020, \$1,000, Booster Club; Dance, 2/3/2020, \$1,000, Booster Club; Clay Target, 2/3/2020, \$1,000, Booster Club; Boys Basketball, 2/3/2020, \$1,000, Booster Club; Boys Basketball, 2/19/2020, \$3,000, SAYBA; Class of 2020, 3/9/2020, \$21.07, Anonymous; Class of 2020, 3/9/2020, \$10, Anonymous; Class of 2020, 5/8/2020, \$1,012, Sartell Vibe; Clay Target, 5/19/2020, \$200, St. Stephen Sportsman's Club; Clay Target, 5/19/2020, \$250, St. Stephen American Post 221; Boys Hockey, 6/5/2020, \$8,331.81, Sartell Playmaker Association.

A.4.d Accept the resignation of Warren Christie, SHS, tech ed, end of school year; Jodi Hennemann, SMS, food service worker, 5/29/20; and Christian Pekarek, SMS, seventh-grade math, end of school year.

A.4.e Approve Long-Term Facility Maintenance Expenditure Application

A.4.f Approve 2020 Apple Technology Lease Resolution

A.4.g Approve 2020 Technology Buyback

A.4.h Approve Agreement between the City of Sartell and ISD 748 relating to Information Technology Services

A.4.i Approve Schools for

Equity in Education Membership Renewal

A.4.j Approve 2020-2021 Minnesota School Boards Association Membership

Construction Manager Report on Building Process:

Project Engineer Eric Johnson reported contractors are wrapping up punch-list items this week at the Middle School remodel project and the Bradbury team will confirm those lists next week. The Riverview Intermediate renovation has continued; the structural steel addition is complete and the roofing will begin tomorrow. The Pier, former pool area, has been filled with concrete and the openings to the hallway will be completed next week. The next items to be completed are the bathroom areas, media center and STEAM/PLTW room. The project remains ahead of schedule.

Superintendent Report: Jeff Schwiebert, Superintendent

Schwiebert reported the District issued the following statement; “As a school community, we are deeply saddened by the death of George Floyd and the events that have surrounded it. We have been challenged to think about how we live our mission and vision. As a school district, we are committed to ensuring each child is part of a healthy, safe, engaged and supported environment. We reaffirm our promise to build an inviting culture where every child feels respected and valued. As educators, we have always believed we have the power to change the world. We are now on the threshold of an opportunity to truly put those beliefs into action. We believe every child has the potential to grow and develop into a well-rounded person who contributes positively to the world. We vow to live these ideals and partner with our communities in strengthening our education system to ensure an equitable and culturally responsive experience for every child. While we have taken steps in the right direction, we know these steps are not enough. We can do more and want to reassure you we are committed to standing up and stepping even deeper into this call for change.” This statement was posted to the website and will have ongoing discussions. Last Monday night the City of Sartell approved the District’s recommendation for taking the funds the District allocated for lights along the walking path and instead using those funds for the new trail on Pinecone and median at Pine Meadow. The City of Sartell also approved a new Technology Agreement with the District. Community

Education has started to reopen their recreation program for the summer, with the next phase communicating the process for outside groups to use the facilities. The state is planning on releasing guidance for how next school year will look on July 27. The three options for the 2020-2021 school year the state has said to plan for are the following: return to school normally this fall, a hybrid model of both in-class and distance learning and only distance learning. The administrative team will review those options in July so after the guidance is released the District will be ready to bring in others to prepare for next year. Lastly parents and student had an opportunity to complete a survey on their experiences with distance learning.

Multi-Tiered System of Support – Social Emotional Learning Programming

Zach Dingmann, Riverview Intermediate Principal, and Sascha Hansen, Sartell High School Principal, presented an overview of the committees work and changes that will begin in the 2020-21 school year.

Budget Reports:

Joe Prom, director of Business Services, presented the revised 2019-20 and preliminary 2020-21 budgets.

Enrollment Report:

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

School Board Committee Report:

Treasurer Marushin reported on the recent Finance Committee meeting.

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Nies to APPROVE #1-21:

New Employees/Changes:

Zach Brown, SHS, 13 days, \$32.50/hour, 13 days, new position, 6/4/2020; Stacy Clitty, SMS, administrative assistant, \$29.83/hour, RVI, Step 7, 8 hours/day, 222 days/year, replacing Diane Omann, 7/1/2020; Amber Coons, SMS, custodian, \$21.02, RIII, S4, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year, new position, 7/1/2020; Krista Durrwachter, DSC, human resources director, \$86,800, .7 FTE, replacing Bart Appleton, 7/1/2020; Nathan Engelmeyer, Grounds, seasonal grounds, \$12.50/hour, new position, 6/8/2020; Zachary Ewald, SMS, custodian, \$18.95/hour, RIII, S2, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year, new position, 7/1/2020; Brenda Fischer, SMS, seventh-social studies, \$48,125, BA, Step G, replacing Jason Spohn, 8/26/2020; Alicia Fosso, RIS, fifth grade, \$42,002, BA, Step A, replacing Dave Ol-

Minutes • back page

Opinion

No way are sports back to normal

Our View Schools face tough fall

Despite best efforts, sometimes there’s no good answer to a problem.

That certainly seems the to be the case with how to start the school year during a public health crisis. Everyone agrees students need to go back to school, but the health and safety of students and teachers has to come first.

State health and education leaders told school administrators earlier this summer to plan for three scenarios when school starts again. None of the options are anything like pre-pandemic education. Students and parents will need to adapt to difficult and inconvenient plans. When distance learning ended in the spring, we hoped we wouldn’t have to confront it again.

Now the time has come. Guidelines, actually requirements, from the governor are expected next week. While waiting for the word from St. Paul, parents and school leaders have speculated if there will be a one-size-fits-all solution statewide, or if the rules will be applied district by district or even school by school depending on the local health situation.

Although school leaders like to talk about local control of schools, the Department of Education and Department of Health clearly identified which practices are requirements and which practices are recommendations. The state’s planning document says “Schools may choose to implement strategies that are more restrictive than the scenario established by the state, but may not choose to implement plans that are less restrictive.”

During the summer, schools were directed to prepare for three contingencies:

- In person learning for all students. But this is not school as we’ve known it. Requirements include social distancing throughout schools.
- A hybrid model with strict social distancing and limiting capacity to 50 percent in schools and buses.
- Distance learning only, like what was implemented for the last two months of the last school year.

Each of these options comes with a long list of challenges, higher expenses and need for more staff. Even if the year begins with in-person learning, there’s no guarantee the other two options won’t be implemented across the state or even within a building if Covid-19 metrics worsen.

Requirements for the first scenario – in-person learning – directs 6 feet of distance between students. To achieve this, class sizes may have to be reduced or other spaces used as alternatives. This affects not only classrooms but lunch lines, locker rooms and restrooms. On school buses, reducing capacity and adding buses and routes would be required.

The hybrid model limits capacity at 50 percent. Will that mean smaller classes with more teachers, alternating in-school days with distance learning or partial day schedules? Plans will be needed for contactless delivery of meals and school materials.

With either of the first two options, people will be in schools, so frequent hand-washing and disinfecting of surfaces will need to be part of the routine.

Beginning the year with distance learning, which may be necessary for health reasons, is the least attractive of the three options. Teachers would be starting the year with students they’ve never met or worked with in person. Parents, teachers and students rose to the challenge last spring, but that experience highlighted challenges when parents work outside the home and children attend different schools. For some children, distance learning worked fine, but students needing extra attention or special help did not fare as well. And nobody sees distance learning as an adequate long-term model for education.

Planning also has to accommodate the real possibility that some parents will not want to send their children back to the classroom until there is a vaccine and that some teachers and staff, who may have underlying health conditions, will not want to risk infection.

When a plan is announced, the community needs to focus on how to make it work by supporting school leaders and teachers. These are not easy decisions or simple solutions.

Meanwhile, the next time you leave home make sure you wear a mask. The price tag for a night of mask-less socializing with friends may turn out to be a very difficult school year.

We *don’t* have it totally under control. It’s *not* going to be just fine. It *didn’t* miraculously go away by April, when it got a little warmer.

“We think some of the states can actually open up before the deadline of May 1.” *And how’d that work out?*

No, 99 percent of COVID-19 cases are *not* totally harmless.

“The coronavirus is going to go away without a vaccine ... and we’re not going to see it again, hopefully.” *Still waiting.*

“By Memorial Day weekend we will have this coronavirus epidemic behind us.” *Maybe Memorial Day 2021.*

“By June a lot of the country should be back to normal and the hope is that by July the country’s really rocking again.” *It’s the middle of July and we’re not really rocking.*

Were these statements wishful thinking or willful ignorance? Normal isn’t coming back after a short break... or perhaps even a long break. By now that should be painfully clear and the approach of two traditional fall routines – back to school and back to football – make that painfully obvious despite happy talk and magical predictions.

During the past few weeks, Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer, the National Hockey League and the National Basketball Association restarted their seasons by placing their teams in bubbles. Games in some sports are underway or soon will be...but with no fans. Before the first major league pitch, Canada told the Blue Jays they would not be welcome to play their

Mike Knaak
Editor



home games in Toronto.

We’ll see how long pro sports will be able to continue with no serious Covid-19 outbreaks. Science and human nature say all the teams won’t finish their seasons.

The real test will be how the NFL and college football handle the pandemic. The pressure is on to play for the pros and big-time college teams because billions of dollars are on the line for tickets, television rights and millions of \$12-beers. Without football revenue, FOX Sports and ESPN, and to a lesser extent NBC, CBS and ABC, will take huge revenue hits.

Pro football players started to report to camp and college players will soon follow. During summer practices, colleges closed or delayed camps when players tested positive. Most major college conferences, including the Big Ten, canceled their nonconference games and the Ivy League scrapped all fall sports.

At the University of Minnesota, the best-case scenario is a \$14 million hole in the athletic budget. If fall sports return without fans, the loss could be \$30 million. And if the season is canceled? Don’t even think about what that will

Goodbye Jemima; hello Black Lives Matter

Goodbye, Aunt Jemima.

The Quaker Oats Co. decided recently to “retire” her as a marketing image for its pancake mix.

I grew up with Aunt Jemima. That is, we kids in the 1950s ate stacks of scrumptious syrupy pancakes almost every day. Mom would make them from a box showing the face of a grinning plump-faced Negro woman wearing a red kerchief on her head – Aunt Jemima. That was the word used for African-Americans/Blacks in those days – Negroes.


One day, mom took us three brothers on the Fifth Avenue bus to the Piggly Wiggly grocery store in downtown St. Cloud. Aunt Jemima was going to be there making pancakes. Oh good, we thought, we get to see somebody famous. We were disappointed. The woman there didn’t look like the Aunt Jemima on the box. Brother Johnny said she was somebody who was paid to just pretend to be the real Jemima.

Back then, we never thought of that pancake woman as an example of racist stereotyping, probably because in all-white St. Cloud we kids did not even know what “racist” or “stereotyping” even meant.

I do recall my parents loved oysters and would buy cans of “Negro Head Oysters.” What a weird creepy name, I used to think. I asked my parents, “Why that name?” They didn’t know but assumed it’s because the man on the can looked like a Negro chef.

The other day, I did some research. In 19th century America, minstrel shows were popular. In those touring plays, white actors would smear their faces

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



with black greasepaint and sing, dance, do skits and act generally ridiculous, like stumbling bumpkins. White audiences would roar with laughter at the antics of such primitive creatures. When a pancake mix maker saw a character named “Aunt Jemima” in a minstrel show circa 1880, he decided to market his mix using an “Aunt Jemima” image – the loyal dedicated Negro cook lovingly attached to her white-family owners.

The first pancake-box image of her is a shockingly grotesque caricature – a blatantly racist illustration of a grinning, huge-mouthed “mammy” with long rows of tiny teeth. Through the decades, the image was periodically changed to be somewhat less offensive until in recent decades Aunt Jemima looked pretty much like a smiling white woman with a very nice tan.

The first “Negro Head Oysters,” I discovered, were first called “N..... Head Oysters,” by the Biloxi, Mississippi, company that canned them. The cans for years depicted the image of a hideous, ferocious-looking, huge red-lipped Negro face about to devour a huge oyster. In 1955, after pressure from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the oyster company changed the name to “Negro Head” (oh, what a concession!).

mean for the dozen or so low-revenue sports that football supports.

Someone at Stanford did the math and the highly regarded university decided to drop 11 sports after next year because of the expected revenue loss. No field hockey or fencing in Palo Alto. Stanford has been known for its diverse array of teams and its success in nonrevenue sports. Stanford won the Directors’ Cup, given to the best overall athletic department in Division I, for 25 straight years.

Don’t be surprised if similar cuts come to colleges near you.

The complications and costs of testing and quarantining dozens if not hundreds of players and staff is not just an issue for Division I colleges. This week, St. John’s coach Gary Fasching told the StarTribune he expects 220 players arriving on campus for his D-III team. Fasching said testing for each of the seven remaining games on the team’s schedule could cost \$154,000.

The paper reported that similar costs for D-II and other D-III colleges could derail the fall season.

The light at the end of Covid-19 tunnel, at least for sports fans, has been the return of sports. But like work, school and entertainment, what we end up with will certainly not be normal if it’s here at all.

Do you really want to cram into First Bank Stadium with 67,000 other people screaming SKOL at the top of their lungs? Super spreaders could kill any prospect of a Super Bowl.

There were in those days many brands of products using the vile name of “N..... head” this or that, such as tobacco products.

My research unlocked many half-forgotten recollections from childhood: seeing on lawn statues that included Negro jockeys, Negro children eating watermelon slices, obese Negro mammies; famed white singer Al Jolson singing “Mammy” in blackface; the “Amos and Andy” radio and TV show; endless dumb cartoons in magazines showing Negro cannibals – always with big lips and rings through noses – about to cook white explorers or missionaries in a big pot; Uncle Tom and Mammy salt-and-pepper shakers; and Brazil nuts that were known widely (including by us kids) as “n..... toes.”

Imagine the cumulative effect of that barrage of vicious racist stereotyping in marketed images and how it seeped into the collective subconscious of most of us: Negroes as happy clinging servants, Negroes as bumbling comic jesters; Negroes as grinning banjo-playing ragamuffins; Negroes as grateful creatures dependent on their superior white masters.

Such demeaning images helped create and reinforce systemic racism in which Blacks were – and often still are – viewed and treated as “inferiors.” Thanks to the “Black Lives (Should) Matter” movement, it’s time for Blacks (along with all minorities) and whites to work together to deconstruct that toxic legacy and to forge bonds of mutual outreach, respect, understanding and equality. All of our lives depend upon a difficult but good-faith survivalist journey into a better future.

Discrimination settlement reached

The Minnesota Department of Human Rights reached a settlement agreement with Edgewood Sartell. The senior living facility violated Minnesota's civil rights law by discriminating against Jameisha Cox, a personal care assistant, because of her race.

“Being belittled on a daily basis because of race is a sad reality for Black people," said Jameisha Cox in a statement from the human rights department. "I was blatantly ignored when I raised concerns about being racially harassed. I was ignored again when I was fired because of my race."

Racial discrimination in employment is consistently one of the largest areas of complaints the Department of Human Rights receives.

Throughout her employment as a personal care assistant at Edgewood Sartell, the senior living facility assigned Cox, a Black woman, to work with a resident who racially harassed her. The resident made racist and derogatory comments about Cox's race, skin and hair. The resident shouted racial ep-

ithets at Cox and attempted to rip off Cox's headscarf. When Cox and other employees reported the racial harassment to Cox's supervisor, the supervisor did nothing, according to the settlement. Cox's supervisor also repeatedly denied Cox's requests to work with a different resident.

In addition to permitting the racial harassment to occur, the senior living facility fired Cox because of her race, according to a statement from the Human Rights Department. Edgewood Sartell falsely claimed that Cox failed to report to work, when in fact she followed the company's protocol. Cox requested and her supervisor approved time off because she was waiting for her next paycheck in order to repair her car that she used to get to work. Edgewood Sartell did not fire white employees who had significant attendance issues.

The senior living facility's executive director never responded to Cox's complaint in response to her termination. On Nov. 18, 2018, Cox filed a charge of discrimination

with the Department of Human Rights alleging racial discrimination.

On Dec. 31, 2019, the Minnesota Department of Human Rights determined Edgewood Sartell violated the Minnesota Human Rights Act when the senior living facility discriminated against Cox when it failed to address the racial harassment by the resident and when it fired Cox because of her race.

To address and prevent future racial discrimination from occurring, the settlement requires Edgewood Sartell to:

- Amend discrimination and harassment policies to make clear the policies apply to harassing and discriminatory conduct by employees, residents, guests, visitors, vendors and contractors;
- Inform all employees of the updated policies; and
- Provide anti-discrimination and anti-harassment training to employees and one hour of bias training.

The settlement also requires Edgewood Sartell to pay Cox for lost wages and damages.

Letter to the editor

Is an ice arena a park?

Robert Schwalboski, Sartell

In a recent letter to the editor by Commissioner Joe Perske, he voiced his concern about the Sartell City Council’s approval of supporting the replacement of the outdoor ice rink with an enclosed version. Granted the city is only “contributing” to the cost while Scheels is

providing most of the funding for naming rights, but Sartell is also being asked to provide \$130,000 per year over a 20-year period. I strongly support Joe and his concerns and would like to add my own.

First let me ask this question: Did the city purchase this property for use as a “park?” IF so, then it should fit the criteria of a “park.” Webster’s definition goes something like this:

“an area of land, usually in a largely natural state, for the enjoyment of the public.” Parking lots and ice arenas don’t fit the criteria or benefit ALL of the residents of Sartell.

Personally I think the City Council has caved to the special interest groups in the city. We now have a moratorium on apartments; how about one on discretion of parks.

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.

Monday, July 27
Sartell Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Bernick’s Arena.
Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.
Le Sauk Township Board Meeting, 7 p.m., Township Hall, 220

Fourth Ave. S., Sartell. Dial in at https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/300024733.

Monday, Aug 3
Sartell Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Bernick’s Arena.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SARTELL
OFFICIAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TESTING
OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Accuracy Test of the Voting Equipment to be used at the Aug. 11, 2020 Primary Election will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 29, 2020. The test will be conducted at Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N., in the city of Sartell.

Anna Gruber
City Administrator

Publish: July 24, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF SARTELL
OFFICIAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TESTING
OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Accuracy Test of the Direct Voting Equipment to be used Aug. 3, 2020 through Aug. 10, 2020 for the Primary Election will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 29, 2020. The test will be conducted at Sartell City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N., in the city of Sartell.

Anna Gruber
City Administrator

Publish: July 24, 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN
PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

The City of St. Stephen will hold a public accuracy test of its election machines at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

The City will test its tabulation machine (DS200) and the assistive voting machine (AutoMark).

The public is welcome to view the test as the City prepares for the State Primary on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2020 in the Council Chamber of City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave SE.

/s/ Julie Jacobs
St. Stephen City Clerk

Dated: July 16, 2020
Publish: July 24, 2020

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photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Strolling through summer

Cousins take a stroll along Ninth Avenue North in Sartell July 17. They are (left to right) Zoey Mugg, 10; Adeline Loehrer, 10; Dexter Loehrer, 9, and (in the stroller) Charlie Hagberg, 1, all of Sartell.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Celebrating summer

Johnny Schneider, 3, of Sartell cools off July 17 at the Celebration neighborhood wading pool in Sartell.

Customer Appreciation Sale



**Hardy Shrub
Roses \$5 Off**



**Outdoor
Pottery
25% Off**



**Summer Gal Size
Perennials
10% Off**



**Minnesota Hardy
Trees & Shrubs
10% Off**



**Outdoor Solar
Garden Accents
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July 31, 2020

Minutes

from page 9

son, 8/26/2020; Meghan Hennagir, RIS, custodian, \$22.23/hour, RIII, S5, new position, 7/1/2020; Kenin Jensen, SMS, custodian, \$17.61/hr, RIII, S1, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year, new position, 7/1/2020; John Kirchner, Transportation, bus driver, \$23.75/hour, Range A, S1, new position, 8/31/2020; Sue Kloetzer, PMP, cashier, \$17.55/hour, RI, S3, 3 hours/day, replacing Sue Fibranz, 8/17/2020; Priscilla Lessard, PMP, AM cashier, \$16.89/hour, RI, S2, 1 hour/day, replacing Sue Fibranz, 9/1/2020; Cody Olson, SMS, associate activities director/TOSA, \$68,787, MA30, Step I, replacing John Ross, (.5 FTE) / new position (.5 FTE), 8/31/2020; Mark Olson, Transportation, bus driver, \$23.75/hour, Range A, S1, new position, 8/31/2020; Burton Ramsey, RIS, lead custodian, \$21.40/hour, RIV, S3, replacing Bahaa Kadhém, 7/1/2020; Luke Rude, SHS, junior varsity football, \$5,267 (10.5 percent), BA, Step I (50,164), replacing Cody Olson, 8/17/2020; and Jessica Wenker, DSC, payroll specialist, \$23.05/hour, RVIII, Step 1, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year, replacing Millie Stang, 6/29/2020.

New Employees – Pending Licensure:
Mitchell Keeler, RIS, physical education, \$42,002, BA, Step A, replacing Cody Olson, 8/26/2020.

Leaves of Absence:
Jody Navratil, DSC-Early Childhood, para, LOA, 5/5/20-end of school year; and Christina Voegelé, RIS, fifth-grade LOA, 9/8/20-10/2/20.

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

A motion was made by Raden and seconded by Marushin TO APPROVE 2019-2020 REVISED BUDGET.

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

A motion was made by Kramer and seconded by Marushin TO APPROVE PRELIMINARY 2020-2021 BUDGET.

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 RESOURCE TRAINING AND SOLUTIONS MEMBERSHIP 2020-2021.

Following discussion on the motion Nies offered an amendment to the original motion which was seconded by Raden TO TABLE ACTION ON THE RESOURCE TRAINING AND SOLUTIONS MEMBERSHIP FOR 2020-2021 UNTIL THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING ON JULY 20, 2020.

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

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Nies TO APPROVE OFFICIAL REVISIONS TO POLICIES 102, 625, 802 & 805.

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

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Byrd TO APPROVE ISD 748 FACILITY USE FEES AND GUIDELINES.

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

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Raden TO APPROVE CALL FOR BIDS FOR MILK PRODUCTS.

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

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:
Closed Meeting/Work Session Superintendent Appraisal – Wednesday, July 8 – District Service Center @ 5:30 p.m.

Future Board Meeting – Monday, July 20 – District Service Center @ 5 p.m.

Committee Assignments were reviewed.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:41 p.m. was made by Raden and seconded by Nies. On a roll call vote, the following voted in favor: Nies, Marushin, Byrd, Kramer, Raden and Snoberger. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 6-0.

/s/ Amanda Byrd, clerk

Publish: July 24, 2020