

Reaching Everybody!

Newsleaders

Friday, Aug. 7, 2020
 Volume 25, Issue 16
 Est. 1995

Town Crier

Farmers' Market going strong

The Sartell Farmers' Market is going strong from 3-6 p.m. Mondays at the Bernick's Arena, 1109 First St. S., Sartell. Summer is in full swing and so are the vegetables. Corn, tomatoes, beans and much more are now in season. In addition to all the great vegetables you will find honey, caramel corn, salsa, canned goods, and great candies and snacks.

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.

Sauk Rapids WOT to host pet photo shoot

A pet photo shoot, sponsored by the Sauk Rapids Women of Today, will be held from 1-8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17, in the Sauk Rapids Municipal Park (look for signage). Up to four subjects total will be allowed in the photo. A \$25 donation is requested. Proceeds benefit the Tri-County Humane Society and other community organizations. Social distancing practices will be adhered. To set an appointment, call Sandy at 320-224-4229 or Marsha at 320-291-2161.

List your event in our calendar

If your group or organization is active again after being idle because of coronavirus, send us your event information for our calendar. Send information including time, date, place and a short explanation to news@thenewsleaders.com.

INSERT:
 City of St. Stephen
 newsletter

School reopening vote will be Aug. 17

by Mike Knaak
 editor@thenewsleaders.com

Students and parents in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district will learn on Aug. 17 how schools will operate when classes begin Sept. 8. The decision will come three weeks before school starts.

School board members heard on Aug. 5 detailed plans for the three learning options directed by the state earlier this summer.

Schools were directed to prepare for in-person classes, a hybrid plan of distance learning and in-school instruction or a return to distance learning.

According to state rules, what plan a district uses depends on the number of Covid-19 cases per 10,000 people in the county over the last 14 days.

To return all students to in-person learning, the case rate needs to be between 0-9. According to the most recent

data for Stearns County, the case rate is between 11 and 12. That means the Sartell-St. Stephen district is right on the edge between in-person classes and a hybrid model. Next week, the district expects to see district-level case numbers.

By Aug. 17, that number could change.

"If everybody wears a mask and follows social distancing, we have a better chance of coming back to school in per-

son," said Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert. "We're hopeful we'll be in the 0-9 range."

If the number remains well above 9, the district will open with in-person learning for kindergarten through grade five and the hybrid option for grades six through 12.

At the Aug. 5 meeting, administrators and principals presented detailed plans developed by each school for how

Schools • page 2



photo by Mike Knaak

Walz visits Sartell to highlight mask distribution

Gov. Tim Walz receives a socially distant greeting from Lori Vrolson, executive director of the Central Minnesota Council on Aging during a visit to Sartell on Aug. 4. Walz visited Sartell to highlight the availability of nearly 400,000 masks for Minnesotans, including older adults. The council has about 7,500 masks to distribute in coordination with Catholic Charities and 16 other partner agencies. Some masks will be distributed with meal deliveries or seniors can call the Senior LinkAge Line and a mask will be mailed. Making sure seniors have masks is one way they can safely step out of isolation, Walz said.



photo by Mike Knaak

Bill Turgeon has his own weather station.

A passion for weather data

by Dennis Dalman
 news@thenewsleaders.com

"Bill the East Sartell Weatherman" has his own weather station in his backyard that reports round-the-clock minute-to-minute updates for his website watchers.

Bill Turgeon, 77, is quick to note, modestly, that he is not a meteorologist – just a weather hobbyist. But "pro" or not,

his knowledge of weather is deep and vast, informed by many years as a passionate observer of Minnesota's fickle weather extremes.

Turgeon, who lives in east Sartell, dubbed his website Sartell East Weather (www.sartelleastweather.com). That's his way of emphasizing the up-to-the-second weather information is precisely specific to east Sartell and the

immediate Sartell area. The weather station, which hangs on a pole by his patio, is a WS-2000 device. The wireless, all-in-one integrated sensor array measures temperature, humidity, rainfall, wind speed and direction, and ultraviolet and solar radiation. The data is instantly relayed to Turgeon's receiver in his house where there are two displays

Weather • page 3

Schools

from front page

each of the three scenarios would operate. District administrators presented plans for technology, busing and food service for the different learning plans.

No matter what plan unfolds, masks will be mandatory for students and staff.

The detailed plan is available on the school district web site.

To help planning, district leaders are asking parents to make a decision by Aug. 12 and register each child into either a distance learning only or

the flexible school year format. Parents should have received an email this week about the choices.

Teams at each school will continue to work on detailed plans about how to operate under the state rules.

The Minnesota State High School League determined the fall sports season will change. Football and volleyball will be played from about March 15 to May 15. Other fall sports will go on as scheduled. Traditional spring sports will take place from May 15 to July 15. The exact dates have not been set for the delayed fall and altered spring sports seasons. The high school league did not address winter sports.

Hollow Park Apts St. Joseph

Hollow Park Apartments in St. Joseph is accepting applications for an on-site manager team.

- Maintenance & administrative skills necessary.
- MUST live on-site.
- Flexible hours with rent reduction & hourly wage.

Employment application required and found on:

lifestyleinc.net
507-451-8524
tdd: 507-451-0704
Equal Housing Opportunity

CARLSON CROSSING TOWNHOMES

We are accepting applications for two-bedroom and three-bedroom townhomes in St.

Joseph, a multi-family development with close amenities and entertainment, nestled in a quiet residential area.

Rent based on income.

FOR RENTAL INFO CALL
320-557-0195 or email
ccrossing@brutgerequities.com

Professionally managed by
BRUTGER
EQUITIES, INC.
Income guidelines apply.

ACCURATE HEARING SERVICES

"Life is better with Accurate Hearing."

- Free Hearing Screenings • Hearing Aid Sales & Service
- Clean & Check All Hearing Aid Brands

320-258-4494 or 1-888-407-4327
161 19th St. S. • Ste. 111 • Sartell
www accurathearingservices.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

AUTO BODY REPAIR

Auto Body 2000

(behind Coborn's in the Industrial Park)
St. Joseph • 320-363-1116

TRUCKING

Brenny Transportation, Inc.

Global Transportation Service
St. Joseph • 320-363-6999
www.brennytransportation.com

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

Blotter

July 25

7 p.m. Speeding. 100 block of Seventh Street N. An officer stopped a driver for speeding. The driver thought the speed limit was 40 mph. A ticket was issued for going 47 mph in a 30-mph residential area.

July 26

10 a.m. Theft. 1500 block of Fourth Avenue N. An officer took a report of a vehicle broken into overnight during the rainstorm. The theft happened just after 5 a.m. A window was smashed and minimal property was taken. A suspect driving what appeared to be a light-colored Subaru Forester was captured on video.

July 27

10:45 p.m. Driving complaint. 200 block of Riverside Avenue S. A caller reported a vehicle with poor driving conduct. Officers located the described vehicle. The driver's license was revoked. The driver tried to provoke officers by acting aggressively, threatening and refusing to comply with instructions to stay in his car. The driver was handcuffed for officer safety. A female passenger became upset and exited the vehicle causing further commotion. After both parties agreed to act with restraint, the driver was released from handcuffs and the woman agreed to drive. A citation issued for obstruction of legal process.

July 28

8:20 p.m. Unwanted person. Le Sauk Drive. A caller reporter a man hanging around a business, "appeared to be on something," and scaring guests off. He was asked to leave.

July 29

4:30 p.m. Agency assist. Amber Avenue S. Sartell officers assisted a neighboring agency by attempting to locate

an individual who was a suspect in a third-degree assault.

July 30

5:40 p.m. Collision. First Street NE and Benton. Two vehicles collided with minor injuries and minor damage to both vehicles.

July 31

3:20 a.m. Agency assist. Seventh Avenue N. An officer overheard a neighboring city was out with a disorderly and intoxicated individual, so he assisted for officer safety.

Aug. 1

10:30 p.m. Domestic dispute. Seventh Street N. A woman reported a man threw her to the ground. The man was under the influence of alcohol and possessed cocaine. Officers separated the two. The woman declined medical attention. The man was arrested for assault and taken to Stearns County Jail.

Aug. 2

1:15 a.m. Suspicious vehicle. Second Street S. Mayo Ambulance staff noticed a suspicious vehicle in a local business's parking lot. Officers contacted the single occupant who stated he is currently homeless and sleeping in his vehicle. The officers noticed no signs of impairment and told the individual he could stay in the lot unless he was told otherwise by the business's staff.

Aug. 3

2:30 a.m. Fire. CR 120. An officer was dispatched to a business regarding a possible fire. Employees stated they smelled something burning but saw nothing out of the ordinary. Sartell firefighters located a rooftop unit that was overheating. They shut off the unit.



Build a better world with us!

LP Building Solutions Watkins MN is hiring PRODUCTION and MAINTENANCE positions for 1st- and 2nd-shift machine operators. Starting wage \$17-\$19 for various positions 2nd-shift differential \$.75 Maintenance Mechanic II wage based on experience

Are you a safety-focused professional who enjoys working on a team? Do you thrive on opportunities to provide value and drive results, while also being paid competitively?

Look no further than LP Building Solutions. Due to increased production, we are seeking qualified candidates to fill PRODUCTION and MAINTENANCE positions at our Watkins, MN FlameBlock® Fire-Rated OSB sheathing facility. Must be able to lift 50 pounds.

If you are interested in joining the LP Team, please complete an application online. Questions please call (320) 764-5797

www.lpcorp.com/careers
Search location "Watkins"

Louisiana-Pacific offers competitive salaries, comprehensive benefits and programs including health, dental, vision, prescription drug coverage, PTO, retirement plan with 401(k) match, tuition reimbursement, profit sharing and more.

Louisiana-Pacific is an equal opportunity employer!

BUILD WITH US®

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

Reaching Everybody!
Newsleaders

Newsstands

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

www.thenewsleaders.com

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

Publisher/Owner
Janelle Von Pinnon

Designer
Nina Henne

Editor
Mike Knaak

Assignment Editor
Carolyn Bertsch

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.

1608 11th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304

mailing address: 1622 11th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304

Phone: (320) 363-7741 • E-mail: news@thenewsleaders.com

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

Weather

from front page

for data, as well as a wi-fi setup. He sends data instantly to about a half dozen weather services, including the Weather Underground, owned by The Weather Channel.

For example, on Sunday, Aug. 2, the temperature in east Sartell was 69.6 degrees and felt like 69.0 degrees, with a dew point at 54.2, a drop of 0.2 degrees from the day before. That was at 1:04 p.m. Just one minute later the temperature increased to 70.5 degrees. Another minute later the temperature was 70.7 degrees.

During that same time period (shortly after 1 p.m.) the humidity hovered at 57 percent, air pressure was at 30.7 and winds clocked in at 2.5 mph.

Along with instant weather reports, the website contains a wealth of information – bar chart of just about every aspect of weather patterns, forecasts, precipitation, severe-weather advisories and warnings, wind/lightning, national-weather maps, graphs, drought conditions and daily precipitation amounts as recorded at St. Cloud Regional Airport. Much of the information and data are from links to other weather services, such as long-term forecasts from the National Weather Service in Chanhassen.

It is a site many would find interesting to ponder because it presents so many inter-related aspects of weather phenomenon.

Turgeon said he “stumbled into” his weather hobby years ago when he noticed in a magazine an ad for indoor thermometers. His curiosity was piqued and so he went online and discovered there are at-home weather stations one can purchase. He bought one and set it up on his hobby farm near Hackensack and then he joined an online forum for weather enthusiasts called WX Forum.

Turgeon and his wife, Kathy, moved to Sartell from Hacken-

sack in November of last year. It was a very heart-wrenching move.

“It was so hard to leave that place,” he said.

“That place” was their hobby farm they called “Hiram Hill Homestead,” so-named because it is located in Hiram Township. It is a beloved 40-acre spread of land that was their home for 22 years. He and Kathy worked mightily to develop the property, building a chicken coop, a barn and other amenities.

“It was a wonderful place to live,” he said. “We had chickens, a couple pigs and we chopped our own wood. It was one of those ‘back to the land’ kind of things.”

He even wrote a book about their love affair with their new home, a book titled “Hiram Hill Homestead.”

Born in Crookston, Turgeon grew up on a farm near Oklee in Red Lake County.

The Turgeons moved to Hackensack after he quit his job as a public relations director for Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. Long before that, he had earned a journalism degree from the University of Missouri School of Journalism, the nation’s oldest and highly regarded journalism school. Turgeon wrote for a number of papers, including the multiple-award-winning Rochester (Minnesota) Post Bulletin for which he edited copy and wrote feature stories. He was drafted in the mid-1960s, joined the U.S. Air Force and served four years, his last year in the Vietnam War as aircraft refueler at an air base.

Kathy Turgeon, originally from Great Bend, Kansas, had been for many years an elementary school teacher.

After Turgeon quit his job at the university, he and Kathy were both ready for a change, something totally new and different. That hankering caused them to purchase the land near Hackensack. And they never looked back.

Hard as it was to leave Hiram Hill Homestead, they just had to because it was becoming so difficult, such hard work to maintain as they both grew older.

The Turgeons both very much enjoy living in Sartell. They used to look forward to attending the weekly Coffee and Conversation programs featuring interesting guest speakers at the Sartell Community Center. But those had to cease due to the virus pandemic. The Turgeons are looking forward to when those programs begin again.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the couple is content to stay at home with their

loving dog, Maya, a black Lab/border collie cross that was rescued from Texas after Hurricane Harvey devastated parts of that state.

“This weather hobby is the perfect hobby for the Covid crisis since it keeps me home,” he said.

Another longtime hobby is his postage stamp collecting.

With the soul of a poet, Turgeon can wax rhapsodic about various weathers: “At Hiram Hill Homestead, there

were very beautiful early mornings in winter when it was still dark under the stars, and I would walk out of the house many mornings when it was very cold but not windy. It was a perfect silence except sometimes for the sound of poplar trees making cracking sounds.”

Of the four seasons, he and Kathy both like autumn best, but they also enjoy summer days – the non-humid summer

Weather • page 5



St. Stephen Parish Festival

St. Stephen, MN
Monday, Sept. 7, 2020

Online Grand Raffle Drawing at 5:30 p.m.
Website: churchofststephen.org
Facebook: St. Stephen Church

Grand Raffle Tickets

\$5.00 a ticket/10 tickets per book

- ✓ Grand Prize – \$1600 Cash
- ✓ 2nd Prize – \$1500 Cash
- ✓ 3rd Prize – \$1000 Cash
- ✓ 4th Prize – \$500 Cash

Over \$14,000 in Cash and Prizes

Quilt Raffle Tickets

\$1 per ticket

Chance to win one of three quilts

Pictures of Quilts are on the above website and Facebook addresses

----- Order Form—Clip here and return -----

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of tickets wanted:

Grand Raffle Tickets _____ x \$5 = \$ _____ (Amount enclosed)

Quilt Raffle Tickets _____ x \$1 = \$ _____ (Amount enclosed)

Number of Tickets for Quilt #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____

Return to: St. Stephen Church Grand Raffle
103 Central Ave. S.
St. Stephen, MN 56375

Deadline for tickets-by-mail: Aug. 31, 2020

Gambling Permit: X-73024-20-012
Tickets/Books available at St. Stephen Sentry Bank

A plot of land means endless possibilities for building your new home.

Whether you dream of a remote country home or prefer a development outside the city limits where you still have neighbors, one of the first things to consider is a well. With over 60 years of experience, we can help you find water before you purchase your new lot.

Call us today!



WE KNOW WATER

TRAUT

COMPANIES

320-251-5090

141 28th Ave. S.
Waite Park, MN
trautcompanies.com

VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS WITH LSS COMPANION SERVICES

Trusted Support

- Ongoing, friendly phone or video visits with a trained companion can help in this time of social distancing

Volunteer Companion opportunities

- Make a difference from home via phone or video chat. Virtual training is provided.

Contact Janel Heinen at 320.241.5173
or email Janel.Heinen@lssmn.org

www.lssmn.org



Even though we are
SOCIAL DISTANCING
we are still here for you.

Create a LEGACY IN STONE

MGC
MURPHY GRANITE CARVING
(800) 818-5836 alegacyinstone.com

Think about Pre-planning!



BEE LINE
Bee Line Service Center, Inc.

Auto, Truck, RV & Trailer Repair

320-363-1433

8805 Ridgewood Court, St. Joseph
beelineservice.com

Affordable Senior Housing

One bedroom **Riverside** Apartments
Fifty-five & older \$588

Controlled entrance w/ video surveillance
Section 8 welcome • Pets allowed
Includes: heat, electric, a/c, wi-fi, etc.

Call Joyce at 320-252-0880

Access online application at www.stcloudhra.com
101 Riverside Drive SE • St. Cloud



Ask for  **ST CLOUD ORTHOPEDICS**

Choose SPECIALIZED

No time for downtime? We get it. That's why we have expert orthopedic specialists and award-winning physical therapists working under the same roof just for you. For teamwork that's always on your side, ask for St. Cloud Orthopedics.

320-259-4100
StCloudOrthopedics.com

1901 Connecticut Ave S.
Sartell, MN 56377

3315 Roosevelt Rd.
St. Cloud, MN 56301



Sabre swimmer saves 3 lives

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Very few people get a chance to save the life of another human being, but Marena Kouba, a 2017 Sartell High School graduate, saved not just one life but three all at once.

It happened Sunday, July 19, while she and her boyfriend, Dayton Nash of St. Cloud, were visiting Presque Isle in Michigan's Upper Peninsula on the Lake Superior side.

While wading in water toward an island, Kouba and Nash heard the splashing, shouting sounds of swimmers having frolicking fun.

With a quickening dread, they realized the sounds were not fun sounds but desperate cries of swimmers in trouble near the island. An expert award-winning swimmer, Kouba knew exactly what to do without a second thought. She started swimming, fast, toward the swimmers about 100 yards away who were panicking, in danger of drowning. Meantime, Nash dashed back to shore and used his cell phone to

call for help, then helped coordinate the rescue effort from the beach.

Kouba arrived at the scene of the crisis, a man and two children thrashing in the water, struggling to stay afloat. She immediately told them to float on their backs, take deep steady breaths and try to relax. Then she instructed them to hold hands in a circular formation. Kouba then positioned herself in the middle, grabbed on to one of them, then paddled and kicked, bringing the drifting swimmers the long way back to the beach – a distance of about 200 yards.

On the way to shore, the floating boy asked Kouba, "Am I going to die?"

She told him no, that they'll all be OK.

As they floated within sight of the shore, other beach people donned life jackets and swam out to help the group.

It was an exhausting ordeal but thankfully a successful one. Kouba learned the man was the uncle of the two children – a 10-year-old girl and an 11-year-old boy. Back on the beach,

the grateful children quickly recovered from their panic, but the uncle collapsed and started vomiting. By that time, first-responder help had arrived.

If Kouba were not the expert swimmer she is, the crisis might easily have ended in tragedy. As a Sartell Sabre swimmer, Kouba won a state championship award for the 100-meter backstroke. As a St. Cloud State University student and swimmer, soon to be a senior, she has qualified individually for nationals and as a member of a relay team in 2020. Kouba is studying leadership and organization, as well as relational communications, at SCSU, where she met Nash two years ago. He is studying economics.

The couple was enjoying the second anniversary of their meeting with a trip to Marquette, Michigan, when the crisis occurred at Presque Isle, not far from Marquette.

"That afternoon we decided to go to Presque Isle," she said. "It was a very nice day. The (Lake Superior) water was very choppy so we weren't sure if we should walk out to the island

Jump into the New Season, Celebrating 15 years!

Ms. Melinda's DANCE STUDIO
Dreams Begin With a Dance ...
Offering classes to all abilities from ages 2 to adult
Recreational and competitive levels

Offering Classes in person and Hybrid options

Open Houses
Aug. 13, 18, 19, 26, 27
Sept. 1 & 2
3-7 p.m.

454 Great Oak Drive • Waite Park, MN 56387 • (320) 257-TOES (8637)
Visit us on our website at www.msmelindas.com



MEET OUR NEW PHARMACY MANAGER

LESLIE, Pharm.D.

Each of our pharmacies is staffed with kind, dedicated professionals with the training, helpfulness and compassion to assist with your needs. Our mission is to provide more than just prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. Our local Pharmacists can be your trusted resource for advice, support and information. **We're here to help!**

- **READYMED** – Automatic refills and notifications when ready.
- **EASY REFILLS** – 24 hour refill service available via phone or at www.coborns.com/pharmacy
- **VACCINATIONS AVAILABLE** – no appointment necessary.
- **FREE DELIVERY AND MAIL SERVICE** – within designated radius.

 **COBORN'S PHARMACY**
Employee Owned

707 First Avenue N., Sartell, MN 56377
(320) 656-8888 or (800) 656-8898
www.coborns.com/pharmacy

072420PKSHINWSDRAd6x5

on a sand bar. Dayton had been there once before, and we decided to go for it. A couple of others from the beach walked out too.”

As they walked out, they could feel the undertow current against their legs getting stronger by the minute. Later, after the emergency, she learned the three swimmers had been caught in the current and taken into deeper water.

“I haven’t fully processed it yet,” she said. “I didn’t have time to think. I had to dive into action and do everything I could to help those people. I’m just really glad it all worked out the

way it did. And I’m thankful for the mentors and coaches in my life who taught me the skills to be able to accomplish that rescue.”

It was a lucky fluke that Kouba and Nash were at Presque Isle that afternoon. Strangely enough, the pandemic had something to do with it. Originally, the couple had planned to vacation in Door County, Wisconsin, but because of the virus crisis in that area, they decided to go to Upper Michigan instead.

“I guess,” Kouba said, “you could say we were at the right place at the right time.”



contributed photo

Marena Kouba and Dayton Nash.

Weather

from page 3

days, he was quick to add.

The Turgeons have two grown children – a son in Durango, Colorado, and a daughter in Boise, Idaho.

Turgeon is seeking a school

in Sartell or the immediate area that might be interested in having his other weather station, the one he used at Hiram Hill Homestead. It is now stored in his garage, and he wants to donate it to a school that could use it for educational purposes.

If interested, call Turgeon at 320-217-2609.

People

Elizabeth Crandall, a graduating senior from Sartell High School, was chosen as one of five recipients of a St. Cloud



Crandall

Rox Project SAVE Foundation Scholarship Award valued at \$2,000. The scholarship is sponsored by the Founding Partners of the Rox Project SAVE Foundation – Marco, Wells Concrete, CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA) and BankVista. She plans to attend Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin, and major in biology and pre-med.

Emily Baxa of Sartell received a bachelor’s degree in elementary education July 18 from Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa. She is the daughter of Diana and Donald Baxa.

Darah Coleman of Sartell was named to the high honor list for achieving a 4.0 straight A average for spring semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Matthew Immelman and **Matthew Michaud**, both of Sartell, graduated from St. John’s University. Immelman received a bachelor’s degree in economics, earning cum laude honors, which signifies a cumulative grade-point average of 3.65-3.74. Michaud received a bachelor’s degree in accounting, earning

egregia cum laude honors, which signifies a cumulative grade-point average of 4.00.

Sierra Moore of Sartell has been named to the dean’s list for achieving a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher at Colorado College, Colorado Springs.

Camryn Masini of Sartell was named to the spring semester dean’s list for maintaining a minimum grade-point average of 3.7 with no grade lower than a C at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Dylan Notsch of Sartell was named to the spring semester dean’s list for achieving at least a 3.50 grade-point average at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Realife Cooperative at Mueller Gardens

55+ Senior Housing Community
Find your new home here!

Independent Living • Ownership w/Tax Benefits
Secure Community • Maintenance Free
Enjoy Friendship and Social Activities

320-258-3094
6670 Northwood Lane, St. Cloud
realifecoopmuellergardens.org

Sartell Soccer

Recreation Soccer

Early bird registration ends Sunday, Aug. 9
Season Starts Tuesday, Aug 18.

Go to sartellsoccer.org for more information.

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.



SCHWEGEL'S
LANDSCAPING
& TREE SERVICE
320-293-4438

Your EAB treatment specialist!

Opinion

Our View Data dictates virus solutions

We can't escape numbers. Usually, this time of year, we keep an eye on baseball batting averages, win/loss records and how many days the temperature reaches 90 degrees.

But since spring, watching a new set of numbers took over our attention – the Department of Health's daily posting of how many Minnesotans tested positive for Covid-19, how many have died and how many are in the hospital. We can track these numbers down to the county level on the department's dashboard.

Now there's a new dashboard and a new set of numbers. The Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Foundation launched what it calls an Economic Dashboard for Minnesota's Recovery.

Both dashboards should help decide how government responds to the pandemic but – more importantly – Minnesotans should focus on how the numbers affect their lives.

The health department focuses on public health and the Chamber of Commerce focuses on economic health, these are not dueling dashboards. By safely and successfully taking action and setting policy decisions, we balance economic and health data. There will not be full economic recovery while cases, the percentage of positive tests and hospitalizations rise.

Watching the health numbers will be crucial during the next few weeks as school boards decide how to open schools based on local conditions.

The economic numbers displayed on the Chamber's dashboard reveal the current state of Minnesota's economy. Graphics show state and county employment trends compared with national data. The details also track jobs by occupation and numbers that reveal whether the economy is improving such as job postings, bankruptcies, home sales and new business filings.

The Chamber explains the lag in standard economic data collected by state and federal agencies typically looks backward. The Minnesota Chamber Foundation launched the dashboard to track changes in both traditional economic measurements such as unemployment and job growth as well as alternative, short-term changes to provide a real-time look at economic behavior that has implications for future economic outcomes.

Sean O'Neil, the director of the Chamber Foundation's Center for Economic Research, writes Minnesota's economic recovery is well underway. His findings:

After suffering unprecedented job losses in March and April, Minnesota's unemployment dropped to 8.5 percent after peaking at 9.9 percent in May, and total employment rose for a second straight month. The state's overall unemployment rate remains well below the U.S. rate of 11.1 percent. "Minnesota's diverse economy and concentration of jobs in sectors relatively less impacted by Covid-19 are likely a contributing factor," O'Neil writes.

Some caution remains. While hourly work levels rose in June – aligning with recent employment data – they have since flattened, pointing to a potential softening in Minnesota's recovery.

O'Neil writes that "Minnesota's employment is disproportionately concentrated in health care, manufacturing, corporate headquarters, and finance and insurance. Health care saw the biggest one-month rebound in employment of Minnesota's four most concentrated sectors, as voluntary procedures came back online."

The report concludes: Several indicators of economic recovery should be watched closely in coming months. New business filings increased in June to 6,530 from a low point in May of 5,681. And while home sales are down 12 percent compared with last year, web visits to Zillow have increased significantly this spring and summer. This could indicate interest in future home buying and selling, O'Neil writes.

You can view the Chamber dashboard here: www.mnchamber.com/blog/economic-dashboard-minnesotas-recovery.

The latest state health numbers, updated daily at 11 a.m., are here: www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html

Every day we see national numbers that report millions of cases and tragically the death of one American every minute. These resources share what's happening right here, right now in Minnesota.

We need to balance both sets of numbers as we make personal as well as community choices to survive until there's a vaccine.

Discover the people behind the beer

Beer drinkers in Central Minnesota, like most of the rest of America, enjoy a wide selection of beers, thanks to the recent popularity of small craft breweries.

Today's local craft brewers, such as St. Joseph's Bad Habit, can trace their heritage back more than 150 years. That lineage is the subject of a new book, "Central Minnesota Beer – A History," written by Jacob Laxen.

Laxen and I worked together at the St. Cloud Times for five years, first when he was a sports reporter and a few years later when he established himself as the "beer beat" reporter. He's since moved on to Fort Collins, Colorado, where he's a digital managing editor for that region's Townsquare Media radio stations. He still has time for beer.

The book traces Central Minnesota's German immigrants who built a thriving brewing culture.

"History repeats itself," Laxen told me. "In the 1800s, a lot of towns had their own breweries, then consolidation took over. Now communities are getting their own taprooms again."

Laxen not only writes about the beers, but thanks to his talent for revealing personal stories, we can read about the characters behind the beers.

To find Laxen's favorite character, we head to New Munich, where the Froehler family hired Hungarian immigrant Mathew Pitzl in 1889. He transformed the brewery and eventually bought it in 1900 for \$5,000. Ten years later, it was Stearns County's largest brewery. During Prohibition, Pitzl kept brewing and discreetly selling beer. Eventually the feds caught on, raided the brewery

Masks only work if everyone wears one

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to sweep the nation, the numbers are simply horrendous. 4.6 million cases have been confirmed as of the time of writing in the United States, with more than 150,000 dead. Despite these statistics, it seems like a large chunk of people seem to be "over" Covid-19, not thinking it deserves concern. While I too am a bit tired of all the quarantine and lockdown measures we have had in place during the past few months, I know they serve a vital purpose. While it may not feel like there is much we can do, there is one small measure each of us can participate in to slow the spread of Covid-19 – wearing a mask in public places.

For context on the horrific numbers we have seen, 40,000 more Americans have now died from Covid-19 than died 100 years ago fighting in France during World War I. And it isn't over by a long shot. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 20,000 more deaths will occur in the United States during just the next three weeks with current trends. That is more than the entire population of Sartell or my hometown of Sauk Rapids. These numbers should serve to show us all the threat of Covid-19 is real and dangerous. Even if you are younger and personally at less risk, think of parents, grandparents and people with vulnerable immune systems who you know who you could potentially infect.

Masks are vital to stopping this deadly infection because of the way Covid-19

**Mike
Knaak**
Editor



and destroyed the beer. Pitzl went down swinging, fracturing the skull of a federal agent.

Laxen credits Tim O'Hara for starting Central Minnesota's first craft brewery. Tim and his brother and co-owner, Mick, updated what began in the 1940s as Sid and Cecil's Little City on the west side of St. Cloud. The restaurant expanded and added a full liquor license. After taking sole ownership, Tim opened his brewery in 1996. O'Hara hired beer hobbyist Chris Laumb, who soon became his head brewer. Years later Laumb achieved beer fame at Beaver Island Brewing.

"Tim was way ahead of his time. If they would have started 10 years later, they would have still been in business," Laxen said of O'Haras.

Laxen devotes an entire chapter to St. Joseph, home of Bad Habit Brewing and Milk & Honey Ciders. Laxen tells the story of how Bad Habit found its name – a play on the traditional garb worn by nuns and how co-owner Aaron Rieland's

family described his brewing interest. The light humor continues with Bad Habit's slogan – "Be Good, Drink Bad."

Habitual IPA is Laxen's favorite Bad Habit brew. "I like the extreme hop flavor and bitterness," he said.

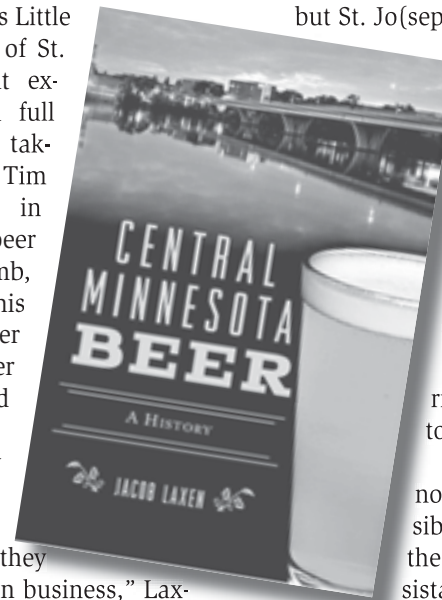
Milk & Honey Ciders is "incredibly unique," Laxen said. "There are not many cideries in Minnesota. The product is fantastic. It's not the cheap hard cider college kids drink. They bring a unique, high quality and a lot of care into their craft. It's an experience there you can't get anywhere else in Central Minnesota. You can't get it anywhere but St. Jo(seph)."

Laxen's interest in Stearns County beer began when his family would vacation in the area. They'd pass by the Cold Spring Brewery on the way to the campground.

"I was always curious about the history," he said.

The book would not have been possible, he said, without the archives and assistance of the staff at Stearns History Museum.

Childhood beer curiosity, the beer beat and finally a hobby that became an obsession led to a book that ties together the region's rich brewing history and stories of the brewers' fascinating personalities.



**Connor
Kockler**
Guest Writer



spreads. The virus is most commonly spread through droplets that go into the air when people cough, sneeze or talk. Wearing a mask inhibits droplets from your nose or mouth from spreading through the air and being picked up by other people. This is why everyone wearing masks is so important. Wearing a mask protects other people more than it protects yourself. Thus, masks are only effective if everyone wears them.

State governments across the country have endorsed these scientific facts by mandating masks just as Gov. Tim Walz did here in Minnesota. Private companies like Walmart and Target have also introduced mask mandates in all of their locations regardless of whether states require them. Many local stores like Coborn's are doing the same. The level of communication and accommodation that is being conducted is admirable. Not only are companies telling customers in advance that they'll need masks, but they also are providing them at the door for people who forget them.

For those who might say wearing masks in public places is a violation of their rights, I would also say each business has the right to protect its employees and customers and keep people out who would endanger them. There are

numerous other things we do every day to keep ourselves and others safe, such as wearing seatbelts, obeying traffic signals and washing our hands. Wearing a mask is no less difficult than doing any of these.

What I especially abhor is the hate and abuse many store employees, including many of my friends, have endured at the hands of people who want to shame them for wearing masks. It is never OK to attack a store employee for doing their job, much less when they are simply wearing a mask to protect you and their fellow employees from getting sick with a deadly disease like Covid-19. That behavior needs to stop and I hope if any of us see it happening we will step in to defend those employees.

I know so many of us desperately want to get back to "normal," but the truth is Covid-19 will not go away unless we all work together to be responsible for the next few months until the growth in cases can be brought under control. Wearing a mask isn't fun I know, but I recognize if I want to go someplace in public I should be protecting the people who work there and my fellow patrons. If we don't all take measures to stop the spread of Covid-19, this lockdown, and the infections and deaths associated with it, won't end for a long time.

Connor Kockler is a student at St. John's University. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.

Council to revisit financing plan for athletic complex

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

A conduit financing plan for the proposed Scheels Athletic Complex will be revisited by the Sartell City Council this month.

City Administrator Anna Gruber said a public hearing on that issue will take place at an upcoming city-council meeting, to be announced soon.

At its July 13 meeting, the council – despite some vigorous opposition from council member Mike Chisum – voted 4-1 to enter into the public-private financial partnership plan with the Sartell Youth Recreation Center. The amount of the conduit-lease transaction is expected to be \$5 million.

The SYRC wants to spend \$6.2 million to construct an enclosed ice arena with fabric roof just south of the current Bernick's Arena. In the warmer seasons, the arena would have artificial turf within it so a variety of other sports and special events, such as concerts and trade shows, could take place there. The SYRC would like to start the project soon – as early as this month.

The July 13 decision authorized a “conduit lease” by which the SYRC could acquire the funding with very low interest rates because of the city's backing.

However, if the money could not be paid back, the city could become responsible for the repayments. That would amount to an estimated \$27,000 monthly.

A “conduit bond,” on the other hand, would result in higher interest rates for the SYRC, but the city would not

be responsible if the money could not be repaid. That second option, a conduit bond, will be considered at the upcoming public hearing.

City commits \$1.5 million to project

The city has already committed to providing about \$1.5 million for the athletic complex over a 20-year period, including an up-front payment of \$450,000 from the city's share of the regional half-cent sales tax and \$482,000 in revenues received by the city for its leasing land for a private golf course.

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

Another opponent of the city's financial involvement with the athletic complex is Joe Perske, former Sartell mayor, teacher, soccer coach and current member of the Stearns County Board of Commissioners.

At the July 13 meeting, Perske spoke up to oppose the project as did Summba Anjum, a young Sartell woman, who said hockey is limited to just a certain group of kids and the city, she said, should offer a wider variety of activities for young people.

Regional park meant for all groups

Perske spoke up again at the July 27 city council meeting during the public forum when members of the public can speak their minds

for up to three minutes each.

Perske said Pinecone Regional Park, the site of the proposed complex, is indeed a “regional” park that is meant for all people to use, not just specialty groups, such as hockey enthusiasts. The ice sheet and warming shelter was built on that site so all kids could skate on it, including those who enjoy skating even though some cannot afford to be in a hockey program. Perske said it would be a “travesty” to take away those amenities to build another arena there.

He also criticized the council for agreeing to spend nearly a half million dollars of regional sales-tax money for an ice arena when public input for at least 10 years included priorities such as a community center, pool, a branch library, a skating park but never an ice-hockey arena.

Perkse then asked the council some pointed questions: How much exactly do current donations and pledges amount to for the proposed project? What if the pandemic forces cancellation of the hockey program and no rental fees come in to repay the conduit financing? The city, he said, would then be stuck with the repayments.

At the July 27 council meeting at which Perske spoke, the athletic-complex issue was not on the agenda and was not discussed by the council.

At the July 13 meeting, council members in favor of the conduit-lease option noted the new arena would be a magnet that would attract many visitors and would be a big economic boost for the city.

PUBLIC NOTICE	
2021 SAUK RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE	
Jan. 1, 2020 to Dec. 31, 2021 Calendar Year Budget	
Managers Compensation and Training Expenses	\$30,851
Operations and Administration Expenses	\$318,716
Education Expenses	\$97,196
Monitoring Expenses	\$41,133
Water Resource Expenses	\$150,871
Permit Authority Expenses	\$48,028
Operating Transfers	\$108,000
Total General Budget	\$794,795
Project Tax Budget	\$125,000
Total Levy Budget	\$919,795

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: The Sauk River Watershed District Board of Managers will hold its annual budget hearing online, using the application WebEx, at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020. The hearing is for the purpose of taking public comment on the proposed 2021 budget with a maximum levy of \$919,795. The proposed budget includes: a General Purpose Tax Levy (MS 103D.905, subd. 3) and a Project Tax Levy (MS 103D.905, subd. 9). Any interested person may provide comments on the proposed budget in writing to Scott Henderson, email at scott@srwdmn.org or by mail to Sauk River Watershed District, Attn: Public Hearing, 524 Fourth St. S., Sauk Centre, MN 56378, in advance of the hearing. At the hearing, any interested person may appear and will be given an opportunity to provide comments. To attend the hearing or to obtain a full copy of the proposed budget, please contact Scott Henderson by email at scott@srwdmn.org or by phone at 320-352-2231.

For more information regarding the budget, please see the SRWD website <http://www.srwdmn.org>

Scott Henderson

Administrator

Sauk River Watershed District

524 Fourth St. S.

Sauk Centre, MN 56378

(320) 352-2231 Phone

scott@srwdmn.org

Visit us online at: www.srwdmn.org

Publish Aug. 7, 2020

Community Calendar

Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304., e-mail it to news@thenewsleaders.com. Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.

Sunday, Aug. 9

Explorer's Program Informational Meeting, 6 p.m., Stearns County Law Enforcement Center, 807 Courthouse Square, St. Cloud.

Monday, Aug. 10

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, 7 p.m. Until further notice, meetings will be via GoToMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/996267573>.

Saturday, Aug. 15

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

Monday, Aug. 17

Sartell Farmers' Market, 3-6 p.m., Bernick's Arena.

Sartell-St. Stephen school board, 5 p.m., District Service Center, 212 Third Ave. N.

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

Obituary

Roger J. Braun, 83
Sartell
June 20, 1937-July 29, 2020

Roger J. Braun died Wednesday, July 29 at his cabin in Backus. His funeral was held Aug. 3 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Sartell. The Rev. Ronald Weyrens officiated and burial was in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery near Little Falls.



Braun

Braun was born on June 20, 1937 in St. Cloud to John and Veronica (Weyrauch) Braun. He

married LaVerne Weyer on Aug. 21, 1962 in St. Francis Xavier church. Braun lived most of his life in Sauk Rapids and worked as a business teacher in Holdingford and Sauk Rapids for a total of 19 years. He then worked in sales for Nestle for 17 years, retiring in 1997. He proudly served our country in the U.S. Army. Braun was a faithful, hardworking and selfless man who was very ambitious and a great listener. He enjoyed being at the cabin in Backus, traveling, playing golf and fishing. The couple wintered in Arizona for the last 20 years where he enjoyed playing softball and tennis. He was also a Minnesota Twins and Vikings fan. Most importantly, he enjoyed spending time with his family.

Survivors include the following: his wife, LaVerne; children: Steven of Sauk Rapids, Craig (Carie) of Sauk Rapids and Scott (Catherine) of Lakeville; sister: Alice Kramer of Paris, Illinois; sisters-in-law: Mary Braun of Edina and Laurel Braun of Rochester; grandchildren: Alex, Peyton, Noah, Sophia and Faye Braun.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings: Willard, Ralph and John Braun, Rose Ann Lilledahl and Sr. Alexine; brothers-in-law: Robert Kramer and Don Lilledahl; and sister-in-law: Luella Braun.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred.

Obituary, guest book and video tribute available online: www.williamsdingmann.com.

Alleviate Credit Card Debt

According to a recent study from the Federal Reserve, the United States has surpassed one trillion dollars in credit card debt. This is the highest level it has been since the Great Recession.

Data released by Experian, a credit reporting agency, reveals that the average American faced a credit card balance of \$6,194 in 2019.

Here are some other sobering statistics discovered about credit card debt in the United States.

- 55 percent of Americans are carrying credit card balances.
- The average household carries \$6,849 in credit card debt.
- Credit card holders pay \$1,162 in interest every year.

If you are one of the millions of Americans struggling to make ends meet and catch up on your debt, there are ways to get your head above water.

USE RESPONSIBLY

It can be tempting to make an impulse purchase. It's also easy to tell yourself you will pay it off before interest fees incur but find yourself only making minimum payments. Being a responsible credit card

holder requires diligence in making purchases not outside your means.

ERASE CURRENT DEBT

While small balances which are easily managed can be beneficial to your overall credit, it's important to make payments on time and avoid carrying a large amount of debt. Here are some tips from the organization Consolidated Credit to lower your amount owed to a more manageable price point.

Avoid making minimum payments only. The suggested amount is not efficient to your goal of becoming debt free. Instead, plan a significant amount of extra cash to put down on your debts.

Pay attention to interest rates. Making minimum payments at 17 percent APR means one half of each payment merely covers accrued interest.

Meet with a financial adviser to create a goal for a pay-off date. They can guide you to how much your payments must be to become debt free.



One day at a time.
One step at a time.
One bank at a time
like this.

Lending | Banking | Equipment Financing

Visit [StearnsBank.com](https://www.stearnsbank.com)
or call (320) 253-6607
to learn more.



Follow us [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [n](#) [v](#) | [StearnsBank.com](https://www.stearnsbank.com) | [FDIC](#) [Equal Housing Lender](#)

