

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Oct. 16, 2020
Volume 25, Issue 21
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Sartell groups seek photos to honor veterans

Help us honor our veterans during the month of November. The Sartell Historical Society and the Sartell Community Center want to display pictures of military members past and present with a connection to Sartell. Bring copies of pictures to Ann at the Sartell Community Center by Nov. 9. Pictures should include name, dates of service if known, branch of service and how the person is related to someone in Sartell. Pictures will be displayed from Veterans Day through the end of November in the community center. No original photos will be displayed. The community center is able to make photocopies. For more information, sartellseniorconnection@gmail.com.

St. Stephen mayor position is four-year term

Contrary to what was printed in the October St. Stephen city newsletter, which was distributed as an insert in the Oct. 2 edition of the Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader, the mayor position is a four-year term.

Property tax penalty waived to Dec. 1

The Stearns County Board of Commissioners voted to waive late penalties for second half property taxes for property owners financially impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Instead of an Oct. 15 deadline, penalties will be waived for payments received by Dec. 1, 2020. This forgiveness will only apply to property owners who have paid their first half 2020 property taxes and would not apply to properties which are escrowed. Auditor-Treasurer Randy Schreifels encourages residents and business owners to pay property taxes on time if able, as these funds are used and depended on by local schools, cities and townships. At this time, property tax payments are being processed online at stearnscounty.mn.gov, by mail, or through drop boxes located at the entrances of the Administration Building in downtown St. Cloud or at the Stearns County Service Center in Waite Park. If questions, please call the Treasurer's Office at 320-656-3870.

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.

Following school board vote, equity audit moves forward

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

The first steps in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district's long-debated equity audit will begin in a few weeks when a newly formed Equity in Education Committee meets with the outside consultant hired to conduct the study.

The equity-audit idea 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.

The committee, expected to include about 20 people including teachers, community volunteers and a school board member, will hear from Sebastian Witherspoon, executive director of Equity Alliance MN. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, at the Sartell Middle School Performing Arts Center.

After the school board failed to approve the audit on a 3-3 vote at an Aug. 5 meeting, the board approved a revised plan on a 4-0 vote on Sept. 21.

On the first vote, board chair Jeremy Snoberger and board members Jason Nies and Pat Marushin were in favor and board members Amanda Byrd, Lesa Kramer and Pam Raden were opposed. On the second vote, Byrd joined the yes votes and Kramer, who did not attend, said she also favored the plan. Raden was not at the meeting.

At the Sept. 21 meeting, Byrd said "I just want to add to the people who are here and to our community in general, we never stopped hearing you. It was really important we took our 87 time on this to make sure we

are making the best choice for our community."

The audit will cost about \$80,000. "Finances are a little less of a problem. Covid money will be available," Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert said because those federal funds are intended among other things to support underserved members of the community.

In discussions throughout the summer, board members and people who spoke at meetings wanted the equity effort to go beyond race issues and the final plan addresses those concerns.

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photo by Mike Knaak

High school football finally returns

Sartell High School football players and socially distanced fans cheer a score as the Sabres hosted the Apollo Eagles for the season's first home football game on Oct. 9. Sartell won the game, 35-13. Covid-19 restrictions limited attendance to 250 people. During the game, fans watched from outside the fence and from vehicles lined up on Second Avenue N. Live streams as well as videos of past games are available at www.sartell.k12.mn.us/SHSactivities. Look for the live stream events link.

Rising Covid-19 case counts threaten school plans

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

Consistently climbing Covid-19 case counts in Stearns County may force Sartell-St. Stephen school district to switch to more restrictive learning models.

That was the message at an Oct. 7 listening session on how the district is handling the pandemic.

A handful of people attend-

ed the event at Sartell Middle School and three more people asked questions via Zoom.

Starting this past Monday, Riverview Intermediate School, which serves grades three through five, will switch to a hybrid learning plan. Younger students will continue with in-person classes and grades six through 12 will continue the hybrid model. At Riverview, the hybrid model, where students alternate in-school classes with

distance learning, reduces the number in a classroom at one time.

State guidelines for how schools operate are based on the 14-day average of cases for 10,000 people in the county. Most recent data shows Stearns County's numbers in the mid 30s, Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert said. If the case rate continues to climb or stays higher than 30, that would force the district to distance learning

for all except the youngest students.

On Oct. 8, Stearns County's 14-day case rate was 34.71 cases per 10,000 people.

"We hope those numbers can come back down, but we are also preparing if they don't," Schwiebert said.

Switching to a distance learning mode would affect activities. The state recommends sports and other extra-curricular

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Audit

from front page

“We’re talking about all types of equity,” Schwiebert said. “Gender balance, LGBTQ, kids of color. Income disparity while not gigantic is still a factor. When we look at free and reduced lunch numbers and compare kids and test scores, we have gaps. So what’s behind that gap?”

Equity Alliance will complete the audit by looking at school data, policies, surveys, focus groups and classroom observations. Details on how those efforts will take place will depend how Covid-19 numbers are affecting school operations. Interviews and other research may have to take place virtually.

Surveys will begin in December and may need to be conducted online. During Jan-

uary, researchers will visit classrooms. Focus groups with students, staff and community members will take place either in person or online. Equity Alliance plans to use data and feedback from surveys to form focus group questions.

In late winter, the findings will be compiled into a report and recommendations will be presented to the school board in April. Schwiebert said the board will discuss the findings and come up with an action plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

In earlier discussions, the board debated whether to proceed with the audit amid the disruptions caused by Covid-19.

“We have a lot on our plate with Covid,” Schwiebert said. “We always have a lot on our plate. If we really want to say that all kids being successful is what we’re about, we have to walk that path. We have to move.”



photo by Mike Knaak

People participate in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district 748 Covid-19 listening session on Oct. 7 in person and remotely.

Rising

from front page

lars end.

“That’s a real bummer,” Schwiebert said. “We’re just starting to get our fall activities going.”

But even if Stearns County’s numbers stay above 30, the Sartell-St. Stephen school district may be able to avoid distance learning because case numbers in the eastern half of the county are lower than the west. Schwiebert said the St. Cloud, Sartell-Stephen and Holdingford districts report numbers in the low 20s while case counts per 10,000 in western Stearns are in the 40s and 50s.

While district-level numbers aren’t publicly reported, cases by ZIP code are available and those numbers from the Minnesota Department of Health, based on cases per 1,000 people, show a similar pattern.

As of Oct. 1, Sartell reported 16.3 cases and St. Stephen reported 14.2 per 1,000 people. Neighboring Sauk Rapids reported 16.1 while to the north, the Rice ZIP code reported 9.2. The numbers to the west jumped with 40.2 cases in the Melrose ZIP code and 23.6 in Cold Spring.

A question submitted via email asked why the district is not using a dashboard to report the numbers of student and staff cases by building, as is done in St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids. Because of the district’s size, Schwiebert said, it would be easy to identify the individuals involved and that would

violate health privacy rules. The district is following that policy based on advice from Stearns County Public Health. Sauk Rapids-Rice, a similar-size district, posts a dashboard but that district is in Benton County and follows different advice.

A parent participating remotely asked about instruction for students who are quarantined while awaiting a test result for one family member. Those students, who would normally be attending in-person or hybrid classes have no options while awaiting slow test results, which means the students miss four or five days of classes.

The district is providing distance learning for students who opted out of any in-person instruction but having quarantined students slide in and out of those sessions would be disruptive, Schwiebert said. The district is looking at having a “coach” available online for quarantined students. Meanwhile, the district is handling temporary quarantines like illness absences.

All students will be able to eat school breakfast and lunch for free through Nov. 6. Distance and hybrid learning students can pick up free meals on their home learning days. Meals do not need to be pre-ordered. Meals are available from 11 a.m.-noon at Sartell High School, Door 23, and from 4-5 p.m. at Sartell Middle School’s main entrance.

Schwiebert said the district is aware of less than 10 positive cases.

“We’ve been trying to walk that road of safety,” Schwiebert

said. “Keep the masks on.”

In addition to the sparsely attended listening session, school leaders also received feedback on the district’s learning plans via a survey of high school students. Some 776 students of about 1,200 enrolled at the high school responded and overall the opinions tended to be positive. For example on connecting and interacting with teachers during hybrid learning, more than 85 percent of students rated the situation Good, Just Right or Excellent. In the hybrid learning model, students alternate in-school instruction with distance learning.

Students appear to be comfortable with electronic rather than in-person methods for getting help from teachers. More than 86 percent said they used email or the school’s virtual learning platform, Schoology. In response to a related question on communication during hybrid learning, almost 79 percent of students replied that it was just right.

More than 48 percent said “too much” work was assigned during hybrid learning while more than 47 percent rated it “just right.” Overall, more than 86 percent of students said hybrid learning was either Excellent, Good or Fair, with the largest group, 38.3 percent, saying it was fair.

More than 54 percent of students responded that they were adjusting well, while 40.9 percent said they have “struggled, but overall managed.”

The district will gather more feedback when a survey is sent to parents at the end of the quarter.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN 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 Nov. 3, 2020 General Election will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2020. The test will be conducted at St. Stephen City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave. SE, St. Stephen.

Julie Jacobs

City Administrator

Publish: Oct. 16, 2020



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Riverview adapts to hybrid learning model

by **Dennis Dalman**
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So far, so good.

During the ongoing Virus Crisis, that pretty much sums up how the new school year is coming along in the Sartell-St. Stephen School District.

Teachers, staff, students and parents have had to be flexible, adaptable and creative in new ways of learning while staying safe from illness. Everyone in the schools, including students of course, must practice distancing, wearing masks at all times.

Due to a recent increase in the Covid-19 infection rate in Stearns County, starting on Oct. 12, students at Riverview Intermediate School changed to a hybrid learn-

ing model from an all in-person, in-school learning process. The high school and middle school in the district have been using the hybrid model since opening day, and now Riverview – at least for the foreseeable future – has adapted to that same model.

In the meantime, students in Early Childhood Education classes and in kindergarten will continue in-person learning at the Oak Ridge Learning Center, as well as the first- and second-graders at Pine Meadow Elementary School.

About 900 students in grades three through five attend Riverview, which is the newly remodeled former Sartell Middle School.

In an interview with the Sar-

tell Newsleader, Riverview Assistant Principal Brittney Schoephoferster explained how the hybrid model works.

On Mondays and Tuesdays, students whose last names begin with the letters A through K will attend school in person while following the safety guidelines. That group is known as the “Blues,” named after the blue color of the school district’s blue-and-silver Sabre logo.

On Wednesdays and Thursdays, the “Silvers” (those whose last names begin with letters L through Z) will attend school in person.

On their “off” days, the days when they’re not in school, all students will be expected to accomplish distance learning from

their homes as well as on Fridays.

A big advantage to splitting students into groups is that spaces within school buildings are freed up so distancing during learning, with fewer students, is more easily accomplished.

Schoephoferster, noting that Riverview was totally “in-person” learning until Oct. 12, said she has been very impressed by how well everyone was adapting to rigorous safety policies and restrictions.

“They’re doing a great job,” she said, praising the students’ behavior. “We’re all just doing our best, and we will continue to communicate with everyone as we get new information.”

An important part of that new information is the daily

Covid-19 infection rates released by the Minnesota Department of Health. If rates increase, new adaptations and learning models might have to be introduced.

Right now, students are off for Minnesota Education Association school break Oct. 14-16, and teachers had to do “virtual” conferences.

The three learning-model options for Sartell schools, based on criteria from the Minnesota Department of Education, are the following:

Learning Model 1: In-person learning for all students.

Learning Model 2: Hybrid learning with strict social distancing and capacity limits.

Learning Model 3: Distance learning only.

Caution urged for Halloween activities, fun

by **Dennis Dalman**
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This year, Halloween fun may come with Covid virus risks that

parents should be aware of, according to the National Centers for Disease Control and the Minnesota Department of Health.

It is not advised to hold trick-

or-treat events with large groups, costume parties, haunted houses, hayrides/tractor rides and other large-crowd events. All of those are considered unsafe, high-risk activities, the CDC announcement warns.

Candy should preferably be wrapped individually or in individual goodie bags, and placed on a table, driveway or porch for trick-or-treaters to pick up themselves.

It is not recommended to use bowls of treats that allow indi-

viduals to reach in and grab candy, nor is it recommended that residents give out treats by hand.

Caution should also be stressed at trunk-or-treating events, such as safe distancing (at least six feet) and masks.

“Trunk-or-treat” is the name for a Halloween activity in which organizations/families park vehicles in a lot and have candy in the vehicles’ trunks for children. It is considered a safe alternative to trick-or-treating door-to-door along dark streets.

Little ghouls and goblins can collect pre-wrapped treats while in their choice costumes, but they should be sure to maintain safe social distancing, to wear protective face masks and to keep gatherings to 10 or fewer people.

It is also recommended safety face masks should take the place of other kinds of Halloween masks – that parents or guardians should, if possible, work the safety mask to fit the style and theme of the costume.

Drive-thru an option for dropping off election ballot

With the high number of Stearns County residents voting by absentee ballot in this election, a ballot drop-off drive-thru has been set up outside Stearns County’s Service Center. Randy Schreifels, Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer, said approximately 150 people a day are going into the building to turn in absentee ballots for the Nov. 3 General Election and he hopes the drive-thru will make it more convenient. Residents now have the option to drop off their ballot at the drive-thru. Voters may drop off their own ballot and ballots

for up to three voters. Voters who return a ballot for someone else must show an ID with their name and provide a signature.

Drive-thru Ballot Drop off location

Stearns County Service Center, 3301 CR 138, Waite Park

Hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31

Anyone with questions should contact the Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer’s office at 320-656-3920, or email elections@co.stearns.mn.us.

CRAFT-VENDOR SALES

Saturday, Nov. 7
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

VFW 428
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NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 748
(SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN)
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the General Election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 748, Sartell-St. Stephen, State of Minnesota, in conjunction with the state General Election on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2020 for the purpose of electing three (3) school board members for four (4) year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote, completely fill in the ovals(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
VOTE FOR UP TO THREE

☐

 Jason Nies

☐

 Patricia Meling

☐

 Matthew Moehrle

☐

 Taryn Gentile

☐

write-in, if any

☐

write-in, if any

☐

write-in, if any

The precincts and the polling places for this General Election are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district, which have been established by the cities, towns or townships located in whole or in part within the school district. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as those for the state General Election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: October 2 & 16, 2020

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
/s/ Amanda Byrd
School District Clerk

Ready? Get set. Vote!

by **Dennis Dalman**
news@thenewsleaders.com

With Election Day right around the corner, now is the time for prospective voters to get all their ducks in a row so they are ready to cast their ballots by or on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

There are many choices on the ballots, including presidential candidates as well as local, state and county offices and a slate of judges.

The Newsleader did research so we can answer any voting-related questions readers may have.

Am I registered?

The best way to find out for sure is to go to the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at mnvotes.org. Then click on “Register to Vote,” and while scrolling down on the right you will see “Check my registration.” Click on that. Enter name, birth date, zip code and home address. Then click on the green “Find Registration” box. Then you will know if you are registered or not. If you are registered, you don’t have to do anything other than vote early or vote on Election Day.

The advance registration period ended on Oct. 13. However, do not worry because you can still register to vote at your polling place right on Election Day just before receiving a ballot. But you must bring proof of identity in one or more of the

following forms: a Minnesota driver’s license or Minnesota I.D. card or last four digits of your Social Security number. To show proof of your current residence, you can present one of the following: any photo I.D.s even if they are expired, plus proof that you live at your current home address such as a household bill (such as utilities bill) with current address on it due or dated within 30 days of Nov. 3, Election Day. Acceptable are bills showing on an electrical device, such as an iPhone. Students can bring school I.D.s showing current address.

Another way to vote, lacking some of those documents, is to bring along someone (a registered voter) who can vouch for your identity and your current address.

Early voting

It is still possible to vote early (called “absentee voting”) in person right up until Nov. 3.

Sartell residents in Stearns County can vote early (called “absentee voting”) in person right up until Nov. 3. They can vote at one of two places: the Stearns County Administration Building (by the courthouse) in downtown St. Cloud; and at the Stearns County Service Center in Waite Park.

Sartell residents who are in Benton County (east side of Sartell) can vote early at the

Benton County Government Center, 531 Dewey St. in Foley. Voting hours for all three of those places are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 31. Voting can also be done at those places from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 2, the day right before Election Day.

Mail-in ballots

Mail-in ballots are also an option many voters are choosing because of the pandemic crisis. To request a mail-in ballot in Stearns County, call 320-656-3920. For Benton County, call 320-968-5027.

Call in your ballot request as soon as possible as it may take some time to arrive in your mailbox.

People should be sure to fill out the ballots as soon as they receive them and send them back as soon as possible, preferably on the same day they fill them out. Instructions for filling out, sealing and sending the ballot should be followed carefully to ensure it will be counted. The ballot can be sent back in the mail or hand-delivered to the government centers as noted above.

Ballots must be postmarked before or on Nov. 3 and must be received within 10 days after Election Day or they cannot be counted.

Where do I vote?

People who choose to cast their ballots in person at polling places on Nov. 3 will be expected to wear a mask and follow social-distancing guidelines. Election Day voting hours are 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

The polling places for Sartell and St. Stephen area are the following:

Sartell

Precinct 1: Those people living east of Pinecone Road S. and south of Second Street will vote at the Sartell Community Center.

Precinct 2 (residents in east Sartell): The polling place is at Solid Rock Church, 3010 First Ave. NE.

Precinct 3: All those living east of Pinecone Road N. and north of Second Street S. and south of Fifth Street N. will vote at the Sartell Community Center.

Precinct 4: Voters living west of Pinecone Road S., south of 2-1/2 Street N. and an area south of Third Street N that is west of 19th Avenue N. will vote at First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S.

Precinct 5: Those living east of Pinecone Road N., north of Fifth Street N. and south of 12th Street N. will vote at Messiah Lutheran Church, 320 Fourth Avenue. N.

Precinct 6: Those who live

east of Pinecone Road N., north of 12th Street N. and in a portion west of Pinecone Road N. that is north of of 27th Street N. will vote at Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N.

Precinct 7: Residents who live west of Pinecone Road N., north of 2-1/2 Street N. and the portion north of Third Sreet N. that lies west of 19th Avenue N. will vote at Sartell City Hall.

St. Stephen area

Residents within the city limits will vote at St. Stephen City Hall, 2 Sixth Avenue SE.

Those in LeSauk Township will vote at LeSauk Town Hall, 220 Fourth Ave. S. in Sartell.

Brockway Township residents will vote in Brockway Town Hall, 43710 85th Ave. in rural Rice.

More information

For more detailed information and to ask questions, please call the following phone numbers:

Stearns County: 320-656-3920

Benton County: 320-968-5027

Or visit the Minnesota Secretary of State Office website: mnvotes.org. On that site, many questions are answered; specific voting-procedure directions are given and there are sample ballots so voters can ponder their choices ahead of time.

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 tricounty-crimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.

Sept. 29

8 a.m. Traffic stop. First Street NE and Benton Drive. An officer observed a semaphore violation. The officer discussed the violation with the driver and issued a verbal

warning.

Sept. 30

9:15 p.m. Welfare check. CR 1 and Hwy. 15. A caller reported a man pacing near the road and was concerned he may be suicidal. He told officers he was having an anxiety attack. He gave officers false information and they determined he was a juvenile runaway from Sauk Rapids. Sauk Rapids officers took the male home. The individual was given a verbal warning for providing police with a false name and date of birth.

Oct. 1

2:45 a.m. Fire alarm CR 120. An officer went to a commercial fire alarm call. There were no signs of fire and officer waited until the fire department arrived.

Oct. 2

1:45 p.m. Training. Sartell Middle School. Officers assisted the Sartell School district with ALICE Training for school staff. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate.

Oct. 3

1:30 a.m. Assist person. Pinecone

Road and Roberts Road. An officer observed a juvenile walking on the road only wearing a T-shirt and jeans. The officer contacted the juvenile who stated his mother and her boyfriend had gotten into an argument so he asked if he could leave. The mother gave permission. The juvenile told the officer he was walking to a St. Cloud address. The juvenile also stated the argument was only verbal. The officer gave the juvenile a ride to the St. Cloud address.

Oct. 4

12:15 a.m. Juvenile party. 21st

Avenue N. A caller reported a juvenile party they had heard about on Snapchat. Officers went to the residence, but no signs of a party were found and there was a single adult inside the residence.

Oct. 5

10:45 p.m. Traffic stop. Hwy. 15 and 12th Street N. An officer observed a vehicle with a broken taillight. The officer made contact with the driver and notified them of the infraction and gave a verbal warning.

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Don't Bully My Breed

You might have heard this phrase before. You’ve possibly seen it on a T-shirt or on a sticker in a shop window. Or perhaps you are the owner of a bully-breed dog and are an active participant in raising awareness on the destructive nature of breed-specific legislation.

It's important to understand the impact and history of breed-specific legislation and its impact on pet health.

WHAT IS BREED-SPECIFIC LEGISLATION?

Breed-specific legislation is a law that bans or restricts certain types of dogs based on their appearance and perceived threat to a community. This legislation often is created in response to a well-publicized incidence of a dog biting or injuring someone — especially by pit bull-type breeds.

There has been much dispute, however, about the effectiveness of this type of legislation in preventing or reducing attacks by dogs.

POINT OF VIEW #1

This type of legislation is necessary because certain dog breeds are a public safety issue and should be addressed through cities banning the breed, mandatory spaying or neutering, mandatory microchip implants or prohibiting convicted felons from owning them.

POINT OF VIEW #2

Breed-specific legislation does not effectively address the issue it's aiming for, and is harmful to innocent dogs and owners. There should be more comprehensive and specific “dog-bite” legislation — outside of breed — working alongside consumer-education initiatives and legal mandating of responsible pet ownership.

THE EXPERTS

According to a 2000 report released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, fatal attacks on humans appear to be a breed-specific problem.

However, breeds often not banned (rather than pit bulls and other bully breeds) bite at higher rates, and since fatal attacks represent a very small portion of dog bite injuries, there are better alternatives to breed-specific legislation to address the issue.



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photos by Mike Knaak

Dance teams perform short, special show

(Left) Sartell Sabre Dance Team members show off their steps for an audience of family and friends at the Community Center Oct. 6. The team usually performs at home football games but because of Covid-19 restrictions, those performances were canceled. (Above) The dance team performed just one number to parents who took the opportunity to record the event.



photos by Carolyn Bertsch

Colors peak in Collegeville

(Above) The Bidinger family of Sartell hikes the Chapel Trail at St. John's University in Collegeville Oct. 10. They are (left to right) Tiffany; Landyn, 6; Gavin, 10; Rory; and Keegan, 14. (At right) Scott and Bridget Hamak of Sartell cruise down a hill and around a bend of the Chapel Trail at St. John's University Oct. 10.



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The board members of the Sartell-Sauk Rapids MOMS Club include (left to right) Carrie Weller, hospitality chair; Christie Duininck, treasurer; Tanya Stegman, president; and Tricia Meling, membership vice president. Not pictured are Cindy Fitzthum, secretary; and Ann Nelson, administrative vice president.

Kids grow stronger in MOMS Club

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell-Sauk Rapids MOMS Club is comprised of women with a wide variety of life experiences. There are teachers, photographers, musicians and all manner of skills, talents, professions; some are stay-at-home moms; others have jobs away from home.

Those differences enhance the dynamic cohesion of the group whose members all have the same ultimate aim.

“The goal is to live life as great moms and great kids who all make great friends,” said the club’s president, Tanya Stegman of Sartell.

The “MOMS” stands for “Moms Offering Moms Support.”

The non-profit organization was founded many years ago and now has about 50 active mom members and at least 150 children. Some of those children, by this time, are now college students.

The club meets once a week on varying days. The second Tuesday of the month is Social Day – a time to share ideas about fundraising methods and to plan upcoming events. There is also a monthly Play-day during which moms and children get together just to have fun, sometimes indoors, other times outdoors. Usually, the moms talk and have lots of verbal fun while the children play games, enjoy playground amenities, go bowling and do many other activities. There is also a Lunch Brunch at family-friendly venues where they eat pizzas, burgers or other tasty foods.

During Moms Night Out, the women gather at fun places like Milk and Honey in St. Joseph or – most recently – for the “Haunted Hayride” at Molitor’s Halloween Fun Nights in rural Sauk Rapids.



contributed photo

Daughters of some of the Sartell-Sauk Rapids MOMS Club have fun with balloons at a residential park in Sartell. From left to right are Riley Stegman, Lauren Spoden, Hazel Maloney, Benelli Ensign and Emma Meling.

The virus pandemic has caused the group to adapt with safety precautions, types of distancing and so forth, but it has not dampened any of the club members’ enthusiasm and forward momentum.

Through all of the get-togethers, the moms and children do a lot of learning, bonding, sharing of thoughts and feelings, all while forging connections that strengthen themselves and their children.

“There are a lot of warm fuzzies that happen,” Stegman said. “And we all share our concerns in a judge-free zone. There are so many different women of different backgrounds and yet so many commonalities and connections. And what we have in common most of all is being moms. It’s a great group of women.”

Like all of the women in the MOMS Club, Stegman had had – and is having – an interesting, productive life. She and her husband-to-be, Brian, met while both were students at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. She was studying business management and

chemistry; Brian, the son of North Dakota beet farmers, was pursuing medical studies. Later, the couple, married, moved to Cleveland where Brian worked in a medical clinic. Still later, they moved back to Minnesota where Brian had a new job, and they moved into a house in Sartell. Brian is an interventionist cardiologist for CentraCare Health System.

The couple has two daughters – Sydney, 7; and Riley, 5.

The MOMS Club Board is comprised of Stegman, now in her second term as president; Ann Nelson, administrative vice president; Tricia Meling, membership vice president; Christie Duininck, treasurer; Cindy Fitzthum, secretary; and Carrie Weller, hospitality.

Any mom is welcome to join the Sartell-Sauk Rapids MOMS Club. The next meeting will take place from 9-10:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, the location yet to be determined. The club can be reached at ssrmoms@gmail.com. It also has a Facebook site. Just google Sartell-Sauk Rapids MOMS Club Facebook.

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Wondering Where To Vote on November 3rd?

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○ Sartell has 7 precincts, and the best way to find out where you vote is at MnVotes.org.

○ At MnVotes.org, you can view your ballot, check your polling place, see if you are registered and much, much more. Check it out!



People



contributed photo

The groundbreaking ceremony included Center for Pain Management staff, Nor-Son Construction, Deerwood Bank and ReMax Realty. (From left) Jessica Keller, clinical services manager; Hannah Lindbergh, human resources/administrative assistant; Cheryl Elghor, clinic administrator; Jenny Zayas, nurse/surgical services manager; Dr. Sam Elghor; Dr. Jeff Anderson; Dr. Bryce Holmgren; and Dr. Matthew Timp.

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Center for Pain Management broke ground on a new 12,700-square-foot facility north of Sta Fit in Sartell. The facility will have a separate clinic and ambulatory surgery center with a shared entrance. The clinic will have several exam rooms and additional procedure rooms for ultrasound and infusion treatments. The ambulatory surgery center has

two surgery suites, nine patient bays and a central nursing station that allows staff to closely monitor patients both pre-operation and while in recovery.



contributed photo

COVID prevented the Sartell Hockey PeeWee A team from playing in the Minnesota Hockey State Tournament because it was canceled. The coaches and players were awarded their state qualifier banners. Team members include the following: (front row) Jack Michaud, Landon Hilger, Caleb Thompson, Jameson Schmitz, Shaun Paulson, Drew Bollinger and Adam Holien; (back row) Jeff Bollinger, Chad Holien, Caden Vos, Jake Volker, KJ Sauer, Owen Oxtan, Tanner Burris, Kent Sauer and Brayden Klande.

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Brenny Transportation was recently named a 2020 "Top Companies for Women to Work For in Transportation" by Redefining the Road magazine, the official magazine of the Women In Trucking Association. The magazine created the award in 2018 to support an element of WIT's mission: to promote the accomplishments of companies that are focused on the employment of women in the trucking industry.

There are several key features that distinguish companies recognized on this list, said Brian Everett, publisher of Redefining the Road, including corporate cultures that foster gender diversity; competitive compensation and benefits; flexible hours and work requirements; professional development opportunities; and career advancement opportunities.

These companies will be recognized at the upcoming virtual WIT Accelerate! Conference & Expo Nov. 12-13. Brenny has earned this award two years in a row. More than 13,000 votes were cast to identify the companies named to the list.

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Letters to the editor

Elect leaders who respect laws

Leona Wieland, Sartell

President Trump continues to lead rabble-rousing rallies, campaigning as a President has never done before. He incites people to be violent while claiming to be the candidate of “law and order.” The highest law is love. Our country, its government, states and people need no more violence, division or hypocrisy.

Why does President Trump think he’s above the law? Finally portions of his tax returns are shared. Meanwhile, the nation suffers as the discipline and responsiveness needed from the leader of our nation ignores that more than 200,000 having died from Covid-19.

We are the United States of America. We can be thankful for those who spoke truth to power and then wrote the Constitution which includes the Bill of Rights. We have yet to achieve its ideals. In the meantime, we need leaders who respect laws that all are held accountable for and a President who attempts protections for all people.

Vote for Joe Biden. He recently asked the senators “to have a conscience.” That shows what guides him. He’s dedicated to truth and justice, and he endeavors to keep our government of, by and for the people.

What is true greatness?

Amy Bergeron, Sartell

GREAT again?

Where did we start losing perspective in our thinking about “true” greatness?

It wasn’t that long ago when we thought it honorable to consider less of ourselves and more about the common good in our religion and politics. Minnesota had strong leaders like Hubert Humphrey and Arne Carlson who acted thus. President Kennedy famously stated, “Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country?” Paul Wellstone proclaimed, “We all do better when we ALL do better!”

From the scriptures, countless prophetic exhortations ask a belligerent people to return to the God-life; “Remember whose you are, why you are here, and where you are bound!” (Ps 78). It feels like we are today’s people astray – wandering in a chaotic desert while paying homage to false idols (wealth, power, influence, winning). There are prophets today crying out in our streets. Like the past, they are rejected as undesirables, saying what is NOT liked. Prophets who don’t look the part because they are the young and some are older, Black, Brown, Native American, Asian. Some are

disabled. Others are advocates for climate change, proponents for justice in health care, immigrants, and activists for social equality, peace and structural reforms.

There is an element that seems forgotten in being great again. It’s called sacrifice. Parents know the sacrifice and disruption of their personal freedoms the day their first child is born. Yet greatness demands sacrificing a little freedom to care for others in family, neighbors, community and the people of the world. (For example, is wearing a mask really that big a sacrifice for the health and welfare of others?)

When we decide to lay down our weapons, stop raising our middle fingers in discourse and action, cease bullying with fear and intimidation, we may find room to listen, show regard and respect and even start to collaborate and compromise. We might be able to take opponents out to lunch after the argument is over. Then and only then will we begin a journey back to being great again.

Something we can do for now is to look at our children and neighbors with hearts open and VOTE for the common good and the hope of future generations.

Lewandowski works well with others

David Hiedeman, Sauk Rapids

I have known Alex Lewandowski since he was a student in my first-grade classroom. I have watched him grow up over the years to become the outstanding person he is today. I have also had the privilege of working with him as a coach in youth-sports programs. Through those programs he developed strong leadership skills, effective interpersonal skills and a great rapport with the families in our programs.

I have always known Alex to be reliable, honest and hard-working in everything he does, both as a student, and as a coach. He works well with others and takes initiative to get things done. He is also very good at making decisions and leading others to follow through to develop effective programs for families.

Alex is very open-minded and willing to listen to suggestions for improvement. He leads in a very positive and calming manner, which has always been one of his strongest qualities. Those skills would serve him greatly as a Sartell City Council member. I have no doubt he would be open-minded, practical and represent his community well. I also see him as having a strong vision for the future and working hard to make changes that would make the community better for

everyone.

I would strongly encourage you to consider voting for Alex for city council. He will work his hardest to represent you and make positive changes for your community. His strong leadership skills and great character are important traits for any person in a leadership role. Alex and his family are proud members of the community, with a vested interest in making Sartell a great place to live and work.

Lewandowski a hard worker

Dave Stang, Watkins

I want to express my support for Alex Lewandowski, candidate for Sartell City Council. As a long-time family friend, I have known Alex since he was young and have found him to be a tremendously hard worker, with a follow-through and dedication to any task he is assigned to do. His attention to detail and his great listening skills are the qualities you want in a city council member.

Alex is very approachable and easy to talk to. The city of Sartell is lucky to have Alex as part of the community. It did not surprise me Alex is running for city council as he is not afraid of hard work and will be dedicated to making Sartell an even better place to raise a family.

I encourage Sartell residents to support Alex Lewandowski for city council.

America is in danger of extinction

Denis Grossen, Sartell

It has been said repeatedly, this November election is the most important ever. What is at stake, however, is the survival of a national structure based on virtues that have been, from the start, unique and different. The Founding Fathers produced a Constitution to empower individuals and give them the unique capability to define, limit and control their government.

America was founded to provide opportunities to individuals who believed in personal responsibilities, self-reliance and self-advancement – not to emulate a European model of government that keeps citizens in perpetual childhood. We have become too reliant on the state to provide and now calls are for even more state interventions: whatever is not forbidden will soon be mandatory if we accept a model of government that caters to victims in search of whom to blame rather than achievers who solve their own problems.

The very fabric of our country is in danger as for over a quarter of a century we have

failed to protect the territorial integrity of the United States of America and enforce our laws. Immigration has been a pillar of building this country as long as immigrants were looking forward to embracing the American national virtues and rapidly get integrated into our society. With the ever-increasing flow of illegal immigrants solely attracted by easy financial benefits: free education and free healthcare. Then there are the fake asylum seekers. Economic hardship, domestic and gang violence are not recognized claims for refugee status under international laws. The cultural and historic bonds that united us as a nation are being destroyed. These illegal aliens do not recognize the sovereignty of our land and its borders nor do they accept our laws.

The brilliant system of checks and balances imagined by the Founding Fathers is crumbling. Congress has abdicated its power to legislate (mainly to big government agencies) and letting our democracy slide into a technocracy where so-called experts call the shots; the judicial system is populated by too many activist judges who create rights, not in the Constitution and not enough engaged judges who defend the rights found in the Constitution: the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The industrial revolution as well as globalization were economic phenomena that took place after the writing of the U.S. Constitution. However, the destiny of the U.S.A. was to become a beacon of hope for other nations based on moral principles rather than imposing its will and pursuing economic advantages by governmental intervention and military force. The concept of free-market was also essential and recent bailouts of banks and the auto industry have been sad deviations from this principle.

An exceptional nation with unique characteristics is in danger of extinction. America is on the threshold of becoming another western state with big government, a passive population in waiting for entitlements dished out by a central government, not what the Founding Fathers had in mind for sure!

3 big challenges: Covid-19, racism, global warming

Jim Graeve, St. Joseph

Dr. Martin Luther King told us “the arc of history bends toward justice.” George Floyd’s murder bent the “arc” in a straight line to our hearts, heads and consciences.

It made my stomach turn and I wept.

There is much in the media about reparations to our Black

brothers and sisters for our more than 400 years of racial discrimination in American.

After all, I was never denied a loan because I am “white.”

I never had to teach my children to fear cops!

I was never denied a job because of the color of my skin!

Symbols mean a lot in our society and culture. It is good to see statues of civil war traitors removed. Kudos to the NASCAR racing industry for removing the Confederate flag from all of its promotions.

Labor Day 2020 has come and gone, and we celebrated “organized labor’s” many successes. We have a middle class, 40-hour workweek, minimum wage, health benefits for many, the right to collective bargaining and more.

However, we do not typically think about “free labor” or “slave labor” on Labor Day, at least I have not, until the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020.

Slaves built the White House!

I would like to suggest we pay tribute to our Black sisters and brothers and to the memory of George Floyd by asking our churches, mosques and synagogues have an eight-minute and 46-seconds bell ringing at 8:48 a.m. or 8:48 p.m., or both so we never forget the murder that took place in our state.

Symbols count. Bells ringing could mean ring out bigotry, racism, injustices and ring in justice, fairness, equality for all.

We are all in it together. We need to collectively meet the three great challenges of our time – Covid-19, racism and global warming. There is no room for division among us. As our greatest president, Abraham Lincoln, put it, “A divided house cannot stand.”

Qualities for children should apply to candidates

Leona Wieland, Sartell

The primary is past; the general election is next. There was a yard sign a few weeks ago with a message to vote for “Any Qualified Person.” Seeing it reminded me of a program in the elementary curriculum in the 1990s. It was called “Character Counts!” The Six Pillars of Character are “core ethical values that transcend cultural, religious and socioeconomic differences.”

How might we adults learn, relearn and put into practice that which we expect our children to learn and more importantly which candidates have these qualifications?

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Letters • page 11

Opinion

Our View

Thank you, heroes of the voting process

We hear a lot of praise in these dangerous days (and rightfully so) about all the heroes who keep our troubled world turning.

There are the doctors, nurses, technicians and staffs of clinics and hospitals who work right up front, courageously, in the danger zone of Covid-19 infections. Many of them, when virus infections spike, suffer a terrible emotional toll. Other heroes include those doing “essential” jobs: teachers, police, deputies, mail carriers, medical-emergency workers, retail clerks and so many others who have no choice but to go to work just to pay bills and put food on the table. We salute them all with utmost admiration, thanks and gratitude.

And then there are the other heroes we should also thank – those who keep the very foundation of our democracy, the voting process, in working order. Those heroes are the people who volunteer to ensure when voters come to the polls to vote, those votes are carefully, accurately counted – and accounted for. Those good people of a wide variety of ages know democracy starts right here at home, at the grassroots level, in local voting booths, in which we get to choose who we would like to represent us.

These volunteers go through training to learn exactly how to make the voting process a free and fair procedure. Like doctors, like nurses, these election volunteers (election judges, as they’re known) are not only on the front lines of democracy. They are not only ensuring the integrity of the voting process, but this year they are helping voters stay safe at polling places through sanitation measures, distancing and the wearing of masks.

We hear a lot of bloated nonsense lately about the horrors of voting fraud, of millions and millions of phony ballots submitted to sway an election – especially mail-in ballots. The fact remains that study after study show that voting fraud – of any kind and description – has been virtually non-existent. Such baseless and alarmist claims of voting fraud are most often used to justify voting-suppression efforts or to cast big-time doubt on election results. If these voting-fraud rabble-rousers would spend more time worrying about Russian interference (and then doing something about it), we would all be better served.

Back to the heroes – the election volunteers. We can all rest assured, thanks to their impeccable efforts, that every vote cast will be counted. If and where there may be irregularities, those problems will be discovered, resolved, dealt with in the review process.

Thank you, election heroes! Because of all of you, we citizens can with confidence cast our votes now and on Nov. 3, Election Day, thus keeping our trust and faith in the free and fair voting process – the very foundation of the American Way.

Letters policy

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or mailed to 1622 11th Ave. S.E., St. Cloud, MN 56304. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) During election campaigns, letters will be chosen to present a variety of opinions. Letters that do not run in print will appear on our website, www.thenewsleaders.com. Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space.

Breaking news: Founding Fathers dead

Patric
Lewandowski
Guest Writer



Patric here at the news desk. I’ve just been handed breaking news: all of the Founding Fathers of our country are dead. James Madison, the last surviving Founding Father, passed away in 1836, a mere 184 years ago.

Oh wait, that’s not actually news. It turns out the Founding Fathers have been dead for generations. Given that, I am baffled by the continual hand-wringing over what they want or what they meant.

As a nation, we seem unable to move past the founding of our country for some reason. There are people who have deified this random group of white men. On and on they’ll go about “the wisdom of our founders,” as if somehow these people weren’t just doing the best they could in the time they had but instead were supernatural beings gifting us all a government from on high.

They didn’t. They were no wiser than us in many ways, but they were trying to build something to outlive them. And, they didn’t even get it right on the first or second tries. In fact, their first attempt, the Articles of Confederation, led to such a weak national congress that its inability to raise money from the states (no taxation power) nearly led to the loss of the Revolutionary War when they continually were unable to pay the soldiers.

The second attempt of the Founding Fathers resulted in the Constitution Convention and the actual U.S. Constitution..... almost. Once the Constitution was drafted (with a stronger Congress and new Executive and Judicial branches), it then faced a perilous battle to be ratified by the states. It would require nine of the original 13 states to ratify it, and New Hampshire was the final state to

make it the law of the land. That means it was not unanimous by a long shot. In fact, Rhode Island was the last of the original 13 to ratify the Constitution and not until 1790, three years after it had been drafted.

Of course, people did not love the Constitution, so right away the Founders had to promise to make changes to it just to get it passed! Massachusetts famously refused to ratify it until 1788 and only once the promises of amendments were made. Those first ten (!) amendments are now called The Bill of Rights.

Why the history lesson? Because I wanted to show it should not matter what we think the Founding Fathers wanted or meant, they gave us the ability to alter our country to meet our needs just as they did in their time. That was the entire point of the Revolution; self-governance. If they wanted to create a system of government people couldn’t change to meet their needs, they wouldn’t have created an amendment system.

It is our moral obligation to continue to amend and change our Constitution. The Founders built something they hoped would live on. To live is to grow and change. It is implied in the very nature of our Constitution to keep our country alive we must amend the Constitution to meet our needs.

I often hear from conservative blow-hards that “we are a constitutional republic,

not a democracy.” Baloney. Our founders started with a republic (the Articles of Confederation) and the United States evolved into more of a democracy as we made changes to how Senators are elected, voting rights, and more.

We must continue to perfect our democracy and our Founders gave us the tools to do it. I predict in my lifetime we will see the following amendments to the Constitution:

- 1.) The dissolution of the Electoral College. This is the natural progression as we move toward a more representative democracy.
- 2.) Changes in the language of the Second Amendment. These changes will be far more specific about what is and is not allowed for citizens to own in terms of weaponry. I predict hunting rifles and small handguns will be specified as allowed.
- 3.) Congressional term limits.
- 4.) Supreme Court regulation and term limits. (I suspect clarification and specificity about the Senate needing to act in a timely fashion on nominees as well as nominations during a presidential election.)

Looking further into the crystal ball, I could see amendments at some point dealing with voting rights, primaries, and specificity of the First Amendment in regards to the liability of hosting companies for internet and social media, and specificity on what separation of church and state means. There could even be codified privacy in an amendment.

It is morally imperative we continue to amend our constitution because if we do not, it is not a living document. If it should not grow and change, then our country will go the way of the Founding Fathers, regardless of their intent or wishes.

Election results should be accepted

Connor
Kockler
Guest Writer



As Election Day is drawing ever closer, I’ve noticed an alarming trend of rhetoric emerging about the potential results. Recently, at their respective debates, both President Trump and Vice President Pence refused to definitely state they would accept the results of the November election and commit to a peaceful transition of power. Trump particularly has also made regular statements questioning the legitimacy of absentee voting and making unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud. These sentiments represent a terrible trend for our country and seek to undermine the American people’s confidence in the conduct of our elections. Rather than continuing to promote divisive language such as this, candidates should commit to respect the results of the November elections, once all votes are counted.

Elections in 2020 do look a lot different than in the past. Due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, which has now killed more than 210,000 Americans, many people are choosing to vote by mail or early in person rather than risk infection from crowds on Election Day. Even if you do choose to vote in person on Nov. 3, things will look a lot different, as evidenced by the requirement for masks and social distancing in polling places. These differences have sparked a lot of wrongful talk about the integrity of our elections.

President Trump, among others, has claimed absentee ballots are being sent by foreign countries to rig the vote or that ballots will be sent to wrong addresses

or to deceased people. These claims are untrue. Absentee ballots, like when you vote in person, require you to mark your signature, which is checked against the voter registration rolls. Similarly, if ballots are sent to wrong addresses or to a deceased individual in error, those ballots wouldn’t be accepted if submitted by a potential fraudster because they would require the correct signatures. In essence, mail-in voting is as safe and secure as in-person votes. Claims of fraud are also weakened by the fact voting by mail is actually more difficult to use because a legitimate signature may be rejected wrongfully, or voters may make a mistake that could have been corrected had they voted in person.

Our elections in America as a whole are also highly secure. The conservative-aligned Heritage Foundation has compiled a database of 1,298 cases of voter fraud during the past few years across the entire United States. Compare this to the more than 100 million votes cast in both the federal 2018 midterms and the 2016 presidential election alone.

Though any case of voter fraud is a problem, to suggest it is widespread is blatantly deceptive and not supported by the numbers. A recent federal court ruling

in Pennsylvania agreed with this by denying an attempt by the Trump campaign to restrict ballot drop boxes and disqualify certain absentee ballots there, because the campaign could not show proof that voter fraud could result from these measures.

If anything, we should be making it easier for people to vote, not harder. As I wrote in another column recently, if we truly want the leaders of our country and state to reflect our residents, we should be getting every eligible voter to the polls. Restricting drop boxes, absentee ballots and making baseless allegations of fraud only serves to make it harder for people to vote and make people less likely to accept the results if their side loses.

One of the most important tenets of a democracy is that after the people vote and the ballots are counted, the results will be accepted by both the successful and unsuccessful candidates. A peaceful transition of power in this manner between opposing sides is what separates us from violent dictatorships where rulers hold power through force. So on Nov. 3, and in the days following, as absentee and mail-in votes are counted, we should wait patiently for the final results. A winner should only be declared once this process is complete, and once it is complete that winner should be accepted by all. Refusal to accept the results of free and fair elections should have no place in America.

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

Letters

from page 9

– do what you say you’ll do. Have the courage to do the right thing. Build a good reputation. Be loyal – stand by your family, friends, and country. Keep your promises.

RESPECT
Treat others with respect and follow the Golden Rule. Be tolerant and accept-

ing of differences. Use good manners, not bad language. Be considerate of the feelings of others. Don’t threaten, hit or hurt anyone. Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements.

RESPONSIBILITY
Do what you are supposed to do. Plan ahead. Be diligent. Persevere. Do your best. Use self-control. Be self-disciplined. Think before you act. Be accountable for your words, actions and attitudes. Set a good example for others. Choose a positive attitude. Make healthy choices.

FAIRNESS
Play by the rules. Take turns and share. Be open-minded; listen to others. Don’t take advantage of others. Don’t blame others carelessly. Treat all people fairly.

CARING
Be kind. Be compassionate and show you care. Show empathy. Express gratitude. Forgive others and show mercy. Help people in need. Be charitable and altruistic.

CITIZENSHIP
Do your share to make your home, school, community and greater world better. Cooperate. Get involved in community affairs. Stay informed; vote. Be a good neighbor. Obey laws and rules. Respect authority. Protect the environment. Volunteer.



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.

Friday, Oct. 16
St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, under the water tower near the Wobegon Trail Center, CR 2.

Saturday, Oct. 17
Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S.
Monday, Oct. 19
Sartell-St. Stephen school board, 6:30 p.m., Middle School

Media Center, 748 Seventh St. N.
St. Joseph Rod and Gun Club monthly meeting, 7-8 p.m., American Legion, 101 Minnesota St. W.
Brockway Township Board, 7:30 p.m., Township Hall, 85th Avenue and 438th Street, Rice.

Tuesday, Oct. 20
Memory Writers group, develop topics and turn in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.
St. Cloud Area Genealogists, 7 p.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. stearns-museum.org. Meeting by Zoom. Brendon Duffy, 320-237-3723.
Thursday, Oct. 22
Coffee and Conversation, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. N, Sartell. Call 320-258-7324 to reserve a space. Meet

the new Sartell city staff.
ORELC Preschool/ECFE Family Night, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Oak Ridge Early Learning Center, 1111 27th St. N., Sartell.

Saturday, Oct 24
St. Joseph Winter Farmers’ Market, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 610 CR 2.
Monster Dash, an outdoor family fun run and trick or treating, sponsored by the Sartell Area Chamber of Commerce and Central Minnesota Credit Union, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Lake Francis Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S.
In & Out Crafters, baked goods, vendor sale, food trucks, barbecue trailer, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Freeport Community Center, 307 Seventh St. SE., Freeport. Free admission.

Monday, Oct. 26
Sartell City Council, 6 p.m.,

Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. N.
Middle School Winter Sports Parent/Athlete meeting, Grades 7-8, girls basketball, wrestling, boys swimming, boys basketball, 6 p.m., Performing Arts Center, Sartell Middle School, 627 Third Ave. N.
High School Winter Sports meeting, dance, hockey and nordic skiing, 7:30-8:30 p.m., Sartell High School gym, 3101 Pinecone Road N.

Tuesday, Oct. 27
Le Sauk Township Board, 7 p.m., Township Hall, 220 Fourth Ave. S., Sartell.

Thursday, Oct. 29
Coffee and Conversation, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. N, Sartell. Call 320-258-7324 to reserve a space. Sartell-St. Stephen School Board candidates.
Parkinson’s Disease Support Group, 10 a.m., Edgewood Living, Sartell, virtual. Bobbi at 320-281-3343.

Friday, Oct. 30
St. Joseph Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph.

Sunday, Nov. 1
Daylight Savings Time ends, fall back an hour, 2 a.m.

Coat drive to be held through Oct. 22

Too Much Talent is collecting coats, hats and gloves for children that are in need for the cold winter months. Winter gear can be dropped off at 1410 West St. Germain Street, St. Cloud through October 22. Too Much Talent’s mission is to help prepare youth and families to be the next generation of leaders by providing education, resources and programming that assures every person reaches their potential. Contact Lenora, Too Much Talent at 320-406-3800 or 2muchtalent2@gmail.com.

United Way device drive set Oct. 24

United Way is hosting a Device Drive from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24 in the Quinlivan & Hughes parking lot located at 1740 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud. Bring your old technology and donate it to support people in need of technology. Accepted donations include: laptops, LCD monitors, tablets and cell phones (must be restored to factory settings), networking equipment, servers, printers, keyboards and mice. All donations are securely scrubbed for data and tested. Contact Mary Krippner, director

of volunteer engagement, at 320-223-7991 or MKrippner@unitedwayhelps.org.

Donations sought for people experiencing homelessness

Homeless Helping Homeless helps members find resources for food, clothing, transportation, housing and employment. They are in need of tents, tarps, sleeping bags, gloves, long johns, hand warmers for the unsheltered homeless sleeping outside. Contact Harry, Homeless Helping Homeless, at 612-868-0465 or hfleegel@aol.com.



ADOPTION
ADOPTION. California couple promises baby loving home and secure future. Family friendly neighborhood, devoted grandparents, excellent schools, gentle pets. Generous living expenses paid. Ed and Danielle 1(818)923-3122 or attorney 1(310)663-3467. (MCN)

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FINANCIAL
The COVID crisis has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF! We can help! Get a FREE debt relief quote: Call 1-866-552-0649. (MCN)

FOR SALE
Trailer Sale, 6X12 V-nose Ramp door Aluminum Frame Save \$1,000.00, 14,000 lb. & 20,000 lb. Gravity Tilt Skidloader trailers. Just In DUMP trailers: 5’X10 up to 83 X16 . Prices & info: www.FortDodgeTrailerWorld.com or 515-972-4554. (MCN)

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After Financial Security

Americans who have done the work to secure their futures are left with a feeling of accomplishment but may feel empty as there is nothing left to reach for.

Fortunately, there are many rewarding ways to spend a surplus of money. If you are fortunate enough to have

reached your goals and need help spending your money, consider some of these beneficial ideas.

GIVE BACK

The organization Save the Children reports there are many health benefits which come with making charitable contributions. These include improving self esteem and moods.

Find a cause you believe in. Perhaps you have a family member affected by a rare disease, lost a loved one to a medical condition or desire to aid an organization with an awesome mes-

sage. Make sure the charity you are supporting impacts something you care deeply about.

TREAT YOURSELF

Living with financial security doesn't mean you need to live extravagantly. Rather than buying flashy vehicles or gadgets, try to invest in something that benefits your overall life. Consider these interesting ways to treat yourself that you may not have thought of.

- A personal chef to create meals which encourage a healthy diet.
- A housekeeper to keep your home

spotless while you enjoy your daily life.

- An accountant to keep your portfolio in the black and show you ways to grow.

LIVING A REWARDING LIFE

Dedicating so much time and commitment to your financial security allows us to live fruitful lives. It is a goal Americans strive for and can reach with dedication and planning. The possibilities are endless with the right mindset.



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