

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Oct. 30, 2020
Volume 25, Issue 22
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Farmers' Market open Nov. 7

The Sartell Farmers Market will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7 inside the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Find many great items including eggs, meat, vegetables from storage, honey, salsa, caramel corn, baked goods and much more. Come and get ready for the upcoming holiday season.

Historical society to host holiday market Nov. 14

A Holiday Market, hosted by Sartell Historical Society, will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14 in the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Lots of gifts, Christmas decorations, handmade crafts and re-gifting items available. COVID protocols will be followed; masks required.

Support local theater; Buy a raffle ticket!

To help defray ongoing costs in light of our inability to produce live theater, Great Northern Theatre Company, is selling \$10 raffle tickets. This is a 30/10/10 raffle with 1,000 tickets. On Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 7 and 8 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the group will sell tickets outside at the Cold Spring Teal's Market. For more information, visit gntc1.com to purchase yours today! Drawing will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20 at Shady's Longshots at the Rich Spring Golf Course. Need not be present to win.

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 or mail a check to 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304. Thank you to our recent contributors! Any amount is greatly appreciated.

INSERTS:
City of St. Stephen newsletter
Country Manor Senior Housing

Schools to switch to distance learning for grades 6-12

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

Dramatic increases in Covid-19 cases forced the Sartell-St. Stephen school district to move to distance learning starting Tuesday, Nov. 10, for middle school and high school students. The last day for in-person student athletics and activities will be Saturday, Nov. 7.

The county case rate is 46.36 cases per 10,000 people over a 14-day period and the district case rate is 40.26.

State guidelines suggest that when the case rate exceeds 30, classes move to hybrid for elementary students and distance learning for older students. At the beginning of the school year, the Stearns County case rate was 19.77 and it has been climbing since.

Currently pre-kindergarten through second-grade students are attending classes in person. Grades three through 12 are in a hybrid plan with students alternating in-person days with distance learning days.

"We would to be able to keep our youngest learners in school as long as we can," Superintendent Jeff Schwiibert said in referring to the pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students.

On Oct. 19, the school board adopted a more detailed set of health factors in addition to the county case rate when deciding how schools will operate. While considering the county case rate, administration also considers the school district case rate and school-specific data.

"We have seen more Covid-19 district exposures that have affected our student and staff attendance," Schwiibert said. "The numbers are not going in the right direction."

Nov. 11 marks the end of the first quarter for secondary students, who will finish the quarter in the hybrid plan. To allow staff time to prepare for the shift, there will be no school for students in grades six through 12 on Friday, Nov. 6. Monday, Nov. 9, will continue.

Distance • page 2



photos by Carolyn Bertsch

Trick-or-Treating at Monster Dash

(At left) Gru and his Minions collect candy at the Sartell Community Center Oct. 24. They are (left to right) Carsyn Kowalski, 10; Ryan Kowalski, 14; Tate Olson, 3; Tina Kowalski; and Taylor Olson, all of Sartell. (At right) Levi Headley, 2, of Sartell, with his mother, Blaire, holds his bucket up to a chute to receive candy from the Sartell fire and police department at the Sartell Community Center Monster Dash Event Oct. 24. See another photo of the event on page 11.



City offices, school board on the ballot

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

By Election Day, officials estimate about half of Minnesotans will already have voted. As of last week, more than 1.2 million Minnesotans already cast ballots. That's more than twice the total early voting in 2016 and 2018. Stearns County early voting is running more than 324 percent ahead of this point in 2018.

In addition to state and national races, Sartell and St. Stephen voters will elect three school board members. Two Sartell City Council seats are on the ballot and St. Stephen voters will choose a mayor and two city-council members.

For stories on all the races and candidates, go to: [the-newsleaders.com/category/news/2020election/](https://thenewsleaders.com/category/news/2020election/)

Sartell City Council

Four people are running for two seats on the city council. The candidates are incumbent Mike Chisum, Aaron Johnson, Alex Lewandowski and Jill Smith. Brady Andel did not file for re-election. Council members serve four-year terms.

St. Stephen city government

No one filed for St. Stephen mayor so that office will be filled by write-in votes. Two incumbents, council members Steve Trobec and Tom Vouk, are running for two St. Stephen City Council seats.

Sartell-St. Stephen School Board

Four people have filed for three seats on the Sartell-St. Stephen School Board.

Taryn Gentile, Patricia Meling and Matthew Moehrle will join incumbent Jason Nies on the Nov. 3 ballot. Two incumbents whose terms are expiring, Lesa Kremer and Pam Raden, did not file for re-election. School board members serve four-year terms.

Stearns County Board

Incumbent Joe Perske is running unopposed in Stearns County Commission District 2. Commissioners serve four-year terms.

Legislature

In Senate District 13, Republican Jeff Howe of Rockville is

seeking a second term. He is challenged by DFL candidate Michael Willemsen, Sauk Rapids. District 13 wraps around the city of St. Cloud and covers most of eastern Stearns County from Sartell to Paynesville to Lynden Township and Sauk Rapids in Benton County.

Long-time incumbent Tim O'Driscoll (R-Sartell) is running for a sixth term in the Minnesota House of Representatives. His challenger is DFL'er Benjamin Carollo of Sauk Rapids. House District 13B covers the northeastern corner of Stearns County, including the cities of Holdingford, St. Stephen and Sartell, and Sauk Rapids in Benton County.

State senators serve four-year terms and representatives serve two-year terms.

Obituaries

Violet ‘Vi’ M. Bidinger, 78
Sartell
July 25, 1942-Oct. 14, 2020
Violet “Vi” M. Bidinger, 78, died Oct. 14 at the St. Cloud Hospital.

Her funeral was held Oct. 24 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell. The Rev. Ronald Weyrens officiated and a private burial was held in the parish cemetery.

Bidinger was born July 25, 1942 in St. Cloud and graduated from St. Cloud Tech High School in 1960. She married Robert “Bob” Bidinger on June 20, 1961 and they were members of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. She enjoyed camping, fishing, playing cards (cribbage and euchre), baking, bird watching and spending time with family. She was witty, compassionate, always worried about others and had a strong faith.

Survivors include her husband of 59 years, Bob of Sartell; son and daughters, Bryan of Sartell, Lori Tchida (Rich Kitzmiller) of Sartell, Janet (Jeff) Skinner of Sartell, and Kris (Burl) Ives of Grand Rapids; brothers and sister, Tom (Denny) McNeal of Rockville, Pam (Ron) Ehresman of Maple Grove, and Tim (Karen) McNeal of Sauk Rapids; 12 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Lloyd and Alvina McNeal.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Sarcoma Cancer Research at: curesarcoma.org.

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

Thomas W. Marks, 58
Sartell
May 26, 1962 - Oct. 18, 2020
Thomas “Tom” Wil- lis Marks, 58, of Sar- tell, died Oct. 18 at the St. Cloud Hos- pital. His funeral was held Oct. 28 at Williams Ding- mann Family Funeral Home in Sauk Rapids. Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery in Sartell.

Marks was born on May 26, 1962 in Olivia, Minne- sota to Donald and Shir- ley (Smith) Marks. He mar- ried Connie Sura on Nov. 13, 1982 in Opole. Marks worked as a relief vaca- tion driver for Kemps for 33 years and he also volun- teered his time with the Bird Island Fire Department. He enjoyed grilling, fishing and collecting trains. Marks was selfless, generous, honest and trustworthy. He liked to joke around and have a good time. Most important- ly, he was a true family man and he found so much joy in spending time with his grandchildren.

Survivors include the fol- lowing: his wife of 37 years, Connie, of Sartell; daugh- ters, Melissa (Ron) Vy- lasek of Rogers and Aman- da Marks of Sauk Rapids; grandchildren, Collin, Alex- is, Tyler and Jackson; and siblings, Dan (Sharon), Theresa Lankenau and Sha- ron (Jim) Mohs, all of Bird Island.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and broth- ers, Jim (Marcia) and Bob.

An obituary, guest book and video tribute are avail- able online at www.wil- liamsdingmann.com.

Distance

from front page

tinue to serve as a staff pro- fessional development day as originally scheduled and students in grades pre-kin- dergarten-12 will not report for class.

By switching to distance learning on Nov. 10, Schwiebert said students will have a chance to complete first- quar- ter classes. Many students switch to new classes when the quarter changes and teachers will have a chance to meet their new students in person before moving to distance learning. Schwiebert said Nov. 10 was chosen so families have time to prepare.

The district finished the last school year with distance learning and Schwiebert said teachers and staff have learned from that experience.

“We’ve learned a lot about what they can do when they are distance learning,” Schwiebert said. “We’ve found some things to keep kids focused. It’s still a strug- gle. Educationally, we can get our kids through this.”

The district plans to end in-person sports on Nov. 7. Except for football and vol- leyball, other fall teams have finished their seasons. Winter sports teams face an uncer- tain future. Winter practices are scheduled to start the week of Thanksgiving. Writ- ten as well as verbal guid- ance from the state directed that during distance learning, there should be no extra-cur- ricular activities.

Schwiebert said he’s got- ten “lots of push back” on ending winter sports. But he said it doesn’t make sense to have teams practicing when they can’t be together in a classroom. Schwiebert said he’s asking the education

commissioner to clarify the guidelines for sports.

On Oct. 26, The Anoka-Hen- nepin school board voted to continue with high school and middle school sports and extracurriculars, defying state guidance. Like Sartell-St. Ste- phen Anoka-Hennepin, the state’s largest district, decid- ed to move middle and high school students to distance learning while keeping ele- mentary students in a hybrid format.

According to the state health department, sporting events have been associated with 3,410 known infections, or 2.5 percent of the total statewide. The total includes 593 people involved with high school-age athletics. In the past week, there were two confirmed outbreaks associ- ated with high school soccer and volleyball, state infec- tious disease director Kris Eh- resmann said.

Before students can return to the classroom, the virus factors need to reverse direc- tion. Schwiebert said the dis- trict will continue to look at the weekly trends that track statewide cases, local cases and cases among students and staff.

On Oct. 6, Gov. Tim Walz urged Minnesotans to follow mask and social distancing guidelines, and without citing a specific number, he said the state is below the national av- erage for mask-wearing and not near the 95 percent goal.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation predicts more than 4,800 Covid-19 deaths in Minnesota by the end of the year, but

less than 4,100 if the state had 95 percent compliance with mask-wearing in pub- lic. Almost 2,400 Minneso- tans have now died from the disease.

“If we could convince everyone to wear a mask, we’d slow this thing down,” Schwiebert said.

The district announced this plan for the next three weeks:

- Oct. 26-30**
- Pre-kindergarten through second grade will continue to attend in person.
 - Grades three through 12 will continue to follow the hybrid calendar.

- Nov. 2-6**
- Pre-kindergarten through second grade will continue to attend in person.
 - Grades three through 12 will continue to follow the hybrid calendar.
 - No school on Friday, Nov. 6, grades six through 12, to provide time for staff to prepare for distance learning.

- Nov. 9-13**
- No school on Monday, Nov. 9, for pre-kindergarten through grade 12; teacher professional development
 - Pre-kindergarten through second grade will continue to attend in person.
 - Grades three through five will continue to follow the hybrid calendar.
 - Grades six through 12 – all students in distance learn- ing.
 - No in-person athletics or activities (practices or events) for middle and high school students.

Drop-off ballot times extended

A drive-thru election ballot drop-off service has been ex- tended by the Stearns County Service Center.

The extended hours and dates began Oct. 27.

As of today, Oct. 30, people may fill in their ballots and, if they so choose, drop them off at a drive-thru at the ser- vice center during the following hours and dates:

9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30.
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct.

31.
8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, Nov. 2.

The drive-thru will not be open Nov. 3, which is Election Day.

The Stearns County Service Center is located at 3301 CR 138, Waite Park, MN. It is just past the front of the Menard’s store and then take a right.

Questions? Call the Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer’s Of- fice at 320-656-3920.

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.**

CRAFT-VENDOR SALES

Saturday, Nov. 7

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

VFW 428
9-18th Ave. N., St. Cloud

Donations accepted for Anna Marie's Alliance

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
Quik Stop - Cenex
The Newsleaders office
Sartell City Hall
Sartell Community Center
School District Offices
Speedway
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
Heidi Everett

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.

People

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. Thank you for helping us honor our veterans.

Four Sartell students recently graduated from Bemidji State University. They and their degrees are as follows: **EvaLynn Jundt**, bachelor's degree, magna cum laude; **Gabrielle Linn**, bachelor's degree, cum laude; **Erin Stiegel**, bachelor's degree; and **Brittany Swenson**, bachelor's degree, magna cum laude.

Ben Kiewel, a 2019 graduate of Sartell High School, is a member of the swimming and diving team at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa.

Head Coach Aaron Zander begins his second season and returns eight letter winners from last year.

Rylee Molitor, was recently named to the spring dean's list at South Dakota State University, Brookings. He earned a perfect 4.0 grade-point average in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Sartell Family Medicine, an organization focused on ways to more affordably deliver healthcare, was one of four recipients of the Greater St. Cloud

Development Corp.'s ninth annual Innovation Awards, to be presented on Thursday, Nov. 5.

Sartell Family Medicine, founded in 2018, is one of Minnesota's first clinics to offer solely direct primary care, meaning they do not take insurance in any form. Instead, the clinic contracts with patients and businesses directly, allowing unlimited access to their medical providers at an affordable monthly rate.

"As an organization that is not beholden to the administrative burdens of health insurance, we are able to concentrate on patients rather than paperwork, while providing affordable, accessible and high-quality healthcare," said Dr. Cody Wendlandt, the clinic's founder and medical director.

Sartell Family Medicine also offers many medications, laboratory studies and procedures at minimal cost. Members of the community can make appointments for their in-house mental health counseling, physical therapy and urgent care.

Since the Innovation Awards' inception in 2012, the GSDC has honored 26 for-profit and non-profit organizations that have developed new products or approaches to benefit the Greater St. Cloud region and beyond.

DeZURIK was recently recognized for excellence in workplace safety and health during the MN/SD Safety & Health Virtual Conference held Oct. 19-20. DeZURIK is one of 138 employers to receive an Outstanding Achievement Award through the awards program, coordinated by the Minnesota Safety Council. The award honors employers who continue improvement and/or continue an outstanding record with incident rates that are 51-90 percent better than the industry average, and a score between 75 and 90 on the safety program evaluation scale.

"It is a pleasure to recognize DeZURIK for their award and safety excellence," said Paul



contributed photo
DeZURIK Safety Committee members (front row, left to right) Denise Slipy, Janet Ponath, Matt Fox, Randy Amundson and Chad Randall; and (back row) Josh Kociemba, Scott Burger, Adam Imholt, Gerard Kociemba and Matt Mehr.

Aasen, president of the Minnesota Safety Council. "Safety is about time and attention and diligence. We thank DeZURIK for working hard to keep their employees safe."

"Thank you to all DeZURIK employees for their commitment to safety! I'm proud of our progress and grateful for the recognition from the Minnesota Safety Council," said Bryan Burns, DeZURIK CEO.

"I am excited to receive this award on behalf of DeZURIK and be a part of a great team," said Denise Slipy, manager of Health and Safety.

DeZURIK Inc., headquartered in Sartell, is a market-leading valve manufacturer in the industrial and municipal markets, with DeZURIK, APCO, Hilton and Willamette brands used by customers on an international basis. In addition to the Sartell location, DeZURIK has manufacturing in Cambridge, Ontario; Redmond, Washington; and Houston, Texas to support the growing needs of its customers. Since 1934, the annual Governor's Safety Awards program has honored Minnesota employers with exceptional safety per-



contributed photo
DeZURIK CEO Bryan Burns and Manager of Health and Safety Denise Slipy receive the Governor's Award of Safety.

formance. Applicants are judged on several years of injury data as it compares with their industry's national statistics, and on their progress in implementing a comprehensive safety program.

Blotter

If you have a tip concerning a crime, call the Sartell Police Department at 320-251-8186 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 320-255-1301, or access its tip site at tricountycrimestoppers.org. Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.

Oct. 6
1:40 a.m. Assist agency. Benton Drive and Scenic Drive W. An officer assisted a Benton County deputy with a vehicle search to ensure officer safety. No issues.

Oct. 7
2:10 a.m. Traffic stop. 50th Av-

enue and Brianna Drive. An officer observed poor driving. The driver was given a verbal warning.

Oct. 8
10:03 p.m. Tampering with motor vehicle. 1575 Amber Ave. S. A caller reported someone entered their vehicle. Nothing was missing or damaged. Complainant thinks they scared the suspect off as they came out of the apartment building.

Oct. 9
3:30 p.m. Custody. Pinecone Road S. A caller asked for an officer to stand by while parents exchanged a child.

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.

Wear a mask
in public spaces.

Get tested if you
have any symptoms.

Answer if your health
department calls.

m MINNESOTA

STAY SAFE MN

Nodo masks protect people here, there, everywhere

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

A little kindness (in this case, a safety mask) can go a long, long way. It's an exponential kindness, thanks to a Sartell woman who makes the masks by the thousands and gives them away.

Rosie Nodo has cut material and sewn together more than 2,000 masks since the Covid-19 pandemic began to spread in the United States last spring.

A long-time quilting enthusiast, Nodo had bundles and bundles of materials stored in every nook and cranny of her house. There were so many varieties of material for quilting in virtually every kind of color and design that Nodo had to buy very few extras for her ongoing project.

"This making of masks and giving them away is just one small way I can help in trying to get rid of this nasty virus," Nodo said. "Some days I sew in my sewing room for nine or 10 hours, other days not so much."

Nodo used to work for Dubow Textiles in East St. Cloud.

After the virus began to creep into central Minnesota, Dubow asked Nodo if she'd like to make some masks. She made about 150 of them. A sister who lives in Buffalo and was also making masks, had given Nodo some further inspiration. And it's been gangbusters ever since.

"I started making masks and then I just went wild with it," she said.

At the end of her driveway, she placed a shepherd hook on which she hangs plastic bags filled with masks, free for the taking. Appreciative people sometimes leave money or thank-you notes.

One of them moved Nodo to tears. The note was from two little boys who scrawled on the note, "Thank you for the masks!" Then each of them scribbled and doodled on the note their names and self-portraits.

"I know some people can't afford masks or just don't know where to get them," Nodo said. "So I'm glad I can help them out."

As she continued her project week after week, Nodo became

aware of the need for donating masks here, there and everywhere. She gave bunches of them to one of the Coborn's grocery stores, to the House of Pizza, to a mental-health facility in Waite Park.

She also sent many in the mail – throughout Minnesota and as far away as Florida, Arizona and California where she has friends, relatives or acquaintances.

While making masks, the inner artist in Nodo is in full bloom, the way it is when she makes quilts. Some of her masks are made from wildly colorful fabrics; others are plain and more subdued. She also did lots of theme masks (Minnesota Twins, Vikings, The Wild) that were very popular. She just created a bunch of Halloween-themed masks (pumpkins, ghosts, etc.), and she is now fashioning masks with Thanksgiving and Christmas themes.

For her masks, Nodo uses three layers of material – flannel on the inside, cotton layers on the outside. She makes two pleats on each mask and includes an elastic string on the edge of the mask so that it can



contributed photo

Rosie Nodo shows one of her home-made masks from inside a plastic bag hanging on a shepherd's hook by her driveway at 609 - 2-1/2 St. S. in Sartell.

be tightened snugly against the chin and face by pulling on a bead attached to the string. She also sews a paper-clip device inside so the mask can fit

securely on the bridge of the nose. She also makes special masks to fit smaller children's faces.

Nodo • page 5

Blotter

from page 3

Oct. 10

11 p.m. Theft. CR 120. An employee at a business had their purse stolen and then discarded on scene. Three credit cards were stolen. The officer advised the victim to cancel the cards and notify their bank. Management was advised to contact loss prevention to get video footage to find the suspect.

Oct. 11

12:30 p.m. Intoxicated person. 19th Street N. Officers were dispatched for an individual who had pushed their call button after slipping and falling on their bathroom floor. The individual was clearly impaired and had a PBT of .23. The individual was assisted to a chair. Officers discussed options of detox and medical assistance, but the individual refused both. Staff was advised of the situation.

Oct. 12

4 p.m. Collision. CR 1 and Hwy. 15. An officer was dispatched to a two-vehicle collision. No

injuries were observed and both cars were drivable. The officer assisted the individuals in exchanging their information and writing a crash report.

Oct. 13

7:20 a.m. Crash. Riverside Avenue N. An officer on patrol came across a car vs. deer accident. The vehicle had significant front-end damage and the deer was deceased. The deer was moved to the shoulder of the road. The driver did not wish to keep the deer, did not want an accident report and had someone coming to tow their vehicle. The county was notified, and an individual came to remove the deer. No further action needed.

Oct. 14

3:15 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 1 and LeSauk Drive. An officer on patrol observed a vehicle with improper display of their front license plate. The officer initiated a traffic stop and made contact with the driver to discuss the infraction. The officer gave the driver a verbal warning.

Oct. 15

4:30 p.m. Unwanted person. CR

120. Officers were dispatched to a business after employees reported a male who appeared to be under the influence and was wandering around the business barefoot. At one point the individual was rolling around on the ground yelling at imaginary people. When officers arrived on scene, they were notified as they entered the male ran out the exit. Officers checked the area but were unable to locate the individual. No further action needed.

Oct. 16

5:15 p.m. Driving complaint. Pine Siskin Avenue. A complainant called regarding a lot of speeders in their neighborhood. An officer on duty called the complainant to discuss their concerns. Extra patrol was requested. The officer posted the information to the patrol room's briefing board.

Oct. 17

3:30 p.m. Welfare. Fourth Avenue S. A concerned citizen approached an officer parked in their squad car concerned about a young child they had seen biking by themselves. The officer located the child but saw a mother and another child around the bend. Once the young boy caught up to the other bikers they then continued together. No further action needed.

Oct. 18

9 a.m. Citizen contact. Pinecone Road S. Community Service Officer Wild assisted a few citizens with getting fin-

gerprinting done for licensing purposes. No issues.

Oct. 19

7 p.m. Suspicious activity. 14th Avenue E. An officer on patrol witnessed two vehicles pull up to a building, black out their lights then exit their vehicles and enter the business that was closed. The officer made contact with the individuals and it was found they were the cleaning crew. No further action was needed.

Oct. 20

4 p.m. Vehicle in ditch. Pinecone Road N. Officers responded to a young driver who had over corrected while driving in snowy and icy road conditions thus ending up in the ditch. Officers got the vehicle out of the ditch. The vehicle was drivable, and the driver had no injuries. Officers discussed slowing down and driving for the current conditions. No further action was needed.

Oct. 21

11:30 p.m. Alarm. Second Street S. Officers were dispatched to a local business for a security alarm. Officers secured the building. The keyholder was contacted and met officers on scene. It was determined the alarm was likely due to an HVAC issue. No further action was needed.

Oct. 22

9:30 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 120. An officer on patrol observed a vehicle traveling with no taillights. The officer made contact

with the driver and discussed the infraction. The driver was given a verbal warning.

Oct. 23

5:15 p.m. Assist person. Seventh Avenue N. A complainant requested officer presence while picking up belongings from a residence and exchanging children with the other parent. The exchange was completed with no issues. No further action was needed.

Oct. 24

Midnight. Alarm. Riverside Avenue S. Officers responded to an audible burglary alarm. There was no contact on the premise and a keyholder did not respond. The building was found to be secure. No further action needed.

Oct. 25

1 a.m. Extra patrol. City of Sartell. After recent burglaries and thefts at several local gas stations, officers have been vigilant about conducting extra patrol in the area of said businesses.

Oct. 26

7 p.m. Traffic stop. CR 120. An officer on patrol performed a traffic stop for a vehicle that failed to display their license plates. Upon making contact with the driver it was found the driver's license was revoked, the vehicle was unregistered and did not have taillights and the driver did not have insurance. The officer issued a citation for the infractions.

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

Nodo

from page 4

Nodo admits, modestly, that she’s pretty good at sewing. Well, she ought to be, considering she took up sewing almost 50 years ago when she was pregnant with her first child. Her quilting hobby she began about 20 years ago.

Nodo and her husband, Ervin, a semi-retired contractor, have two daughters: Leah Their in Brooklyn Park and Amy Kahrs, who lives in California. The Nodos have one granddaughter, Madison, 13, who is Leah’s daughter. All are big fans of “Nodo Masks.”

Anyone who would like a Nodo mask can just drive up to the home’s driveway and take one from the shepherd hook. The Nodo residence is located at 609 2-1/2 St. S. in Sartell.



contributed photo

In her sewing room, Rosie Nodo creates one of the more than 2,000 anti-virus masks she has sewn and given to people who need them.




contributed photo

One of Rosie Nodo’s specialties is the “theme mask,” including ones she is making now for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

VOTE BY NOVEMBER 3

SAMPLE

U.S. Representative
District 6



TOM EMMER
Republican

SAMPLE

To find your polling place, call 763-441-1270
or visit EmmerForCongress.com/election

JOIN THESE GROUPS IN SUPPORTING TOM EMMER:

U.S. Chamber of Commerce • Minnesota Fraternal Order of Police
National Right to Life • National Federation of Independent Business
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation • National Association of Home Builders
IUOE Local 49 • Minnesota Police & Peace Officers Association

Paid for by Emmer for Congress



School forest opens up natural education

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

Just outside the back door of Riverview Intermediate School, students and teachers can roam through 60 acres of woods and prairies in the recently designated school forest. Teachers learned how they can tie that unique natural resource to curriculum during a professional development day led by educators from the Jeffers Foundation on Oct. 14.

Riverview serves students in third through fifth grades. During the Jeffers-led session, discussions and field exercises helped teachers come up with strategies for teachers to use in the classroom for all subjects, not just the sciences, Principal Zachery Dingmann said.

“All disciplines can happen outside,” he said.

In one exercise, facilitator David Grack passed out paint-sample cards and asked the assembled teachers to find objects that matched. In late fall, brown, yellow and orange objects were everywhere, but searchers needed to look more closely at their surroundings to find blues.

After their quick search, Grack



photo by Mike Knaak

Jeffers Foundation facilitator David Grack gathers Riverview Intermediate School teachers before sending them on a hunt to find objects matching the colors on paint sample cards.

gathered the crew and asked what they found and how the exercise could work for students. Ideas included asking students to write about what they found to expand their vocabulary and coming up with names for the colors (to re-

place names supplied by the paint company).

So students can record their outdoor experiences, the foundation supplied enough journals for each of the school’s 900 students.

The outdoor classroom west

of the school was designated a School Forest by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. There are more than 135 designated School Forests in Minnesota. They range from less than one acre to 300 acres, for a total

of more than 8,000 acres. The School Forest program was established by law in 1949.

The designated school-forest land is part of the original property purchased in 1968 for the district’s first high school.

Hintgen beats Covid forces to build equipment shed

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

There’s more than one way to beat Covid-19’s repercussions, and it took Lucas Hintgen a long time to do, but he did it.

Lucas, 15, a member of Sartell Boy Scout Troop 211, had planned an Eagle Scout project for May, but complications caused indirectly by the vicious virus threat kept jeopardizing the project.

Lucas’s plan was to construct a storage shed at the Sartell Community Garden near Oak Ridge Elementary School. Many city residents have plots there where they plant and harvest vegetables. Lucas noted the equipment storage shed at that site, used by all the gardeners, was small, aging fast, decrepit. He decided to build a new one to fulfill a requirement for his Eagle Scout merit status.

Last early spring, after presenting his idea to the city council and obtaining its members grateful permission, Lucas began a fundraising effort – about \$3,000 for materials the shed construction would require.

That’s when Covid-19 raised its ugly head. Suddenly, societal forces, including businesses, were plunged into a roiling sea of uncertainties. Fundraising became very difficult, although Lucas kept trying. The need for social distancing also complicated his efforts. He persisted through the better part of six months.

Fundraising efforts were further complicated because the cost of lumber had increased – again because of pandemic-related pressures.

Lucas forged ahead – determined, persistent.

Two weeks ago, just before a

mid-October blast of snow, he won the battle. With the help of others, he completed construction of the storage shed just before the snow began to fall.

“We finished it in about two weeks,” Lucas said. “It felt great to get that shed done. Finally. It took a lot of effort because of the pandemic. Lots of interruptions and uncertainties.”

The final cost of the shed was \$4,000, about \$1,000 more than estimated.

“We still have some money left so we plan to donate it to a good cause,” he said.

Lucas said he appreciates all the help he received: individuals and organizations making donations, as well as adults with carpentry skills helping build the shed. A plaque to be installed on the shed will honor those who helped out. The shed will be painted, weather



contributed photo

Lucas Hintgen of Sartell Boy Scout Troop 211 stands beside the gardening-equipment shed he and others built as part of the requirements to earn his Eagle Scout honor. The shed replaces an old, dilapidated one at Sartell Community Garden near Oak Ridge Elementary School. The shed’s construction was delayed for months because of glitches and complications attributable to the Covid-19 virus crisis.

permitting.

A 10th-grader at Sartell High School, Lucas is the son of David and Julie Hintgen.

Lucas said he still has some paperwork to fill out but that he expects he’ll receive his Eagle Scout honor sometime this next spring.

Woods Christmas

OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 6, 7 and 8

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS & DECORATIONS, PERMANENT CHRISTMAS TREES

\$50 gift certificate
Daily drawings

Shop our winter wonderland for the sights and sounds of the Christmas season

Face covering and distancing required

2801 First St. S., Waite Park, MN 56387

Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-8 p.m. • Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. • 320-252-5234

www.woodsfarmerseed.com

15% TO 20% OFF
Special Expires Nov. 8, 2020

Woods
Farmer Seed & Nursery
Garden Center

Joe Biden for President

Benjamin Carollo for State Representative

Choose unity over division
Choose competence over chaos
Choose compassion over indifference

SD13DFL.org

Prepared and paid for by SD13 DFL, PO Box 802 • Sartell 56377

HOLIDAY SALUTE | A SYMBOL OF SUPPORT

Think Poppies this Holiday Season

Looking for a unique gift idea this holiday season that can greatly impact veterans around the world? Introduced in 1921, the American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program was adopted to recognize the sacrifices and service of military members.

On Memorial Day and Veterans Day, millions of red crepe paper poppies — all handmade by veterans as part of their therapeutic rehabilitation — are distributed across the country in exchange for donations that go directly to assist disabled and hospitalized veterans, according to the American Legion Auxiliary.

Typically, you can help their cause by purchasing a flower on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, but their significance should be commended year-round, including during the holiday season.

Call your local American Legion to see if there are ways you can help in planning and executing this special program. You can make a big difference in carrying on this long-standing tradition with your help during the holidays.

Read on for more information on the Poppy Program and how big of an impact the American Legion is making on our veteran population.

PROGRAM BASICS

The movement of respecting the poppy is one of the American Legion Auxiliary's most prolific programs. Each year, the organization distributes millions of handmade poppies throughout the country in exchange for donations to impact disabled and hospitalized veterans.

Last year, the group estimates that \$2.1 million was raised to directly assist those in need.

PROGRAM HISTORY

A memory soldiers brought home from World War I was the barren landscape of their battlefield being overtaken by wild poppies. The red fields soon gave military members a sense that their fallen comrades spirits would live on. "In Flanders Fields" is a wartime poem, penned by Lt. Col. John McCrae who was inspired by the funeral of a friend and fellow soldier.

McCrae's composition had such an impact on Moina Michael that she led a campaign to adopt the poppy as the national symbol of sacrifice.

GET INVOLVED

Visit <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Poppy/> to learn how you can get involved in the program. Your financial and volunteer support is always needed when it comes to pulling off this unique, far-reaching program every year.

COUNTRY-MANOR-CAMPUS
Sartell, MN
320.253.1920
www.countrymanorcampus.org
Thank you, Veterans!

STEARNS BANK N.A.
We get the job done!
(320) 253-6607 | Member FDIC

Heartland Security
888.264.6380
heartlandss.com
HOME SECURITY • BUSINESS SECURITY
AG MONITORING • MEDICAL ALERTS

Providing Great Family Dental Care
We're here to serve you!
Welch Dental Care
151 19th St. S., Ste. B • Sartell
320-229-2233
www.welchdentalcare.com

30+ years experience!
Auto Body 2000, Inc.
AB2k CO INC.
Craig Zahara
611 19th Ave. NE, St Joseph
320-363-1116
www.ab2k.com

24 Hour Emergency Service
TRAUT COMPANIES
We Know Water from the Bottom to the Tap
320-251-5090
or 800-728-5091
141 28th Avenue South, Waite Park
trautcompanies.com

Pediatric Dentistry P.C.
Dr. Sarah Welch & Dr. Ashley Turritin
CARING FOR KIDS.
• Pediatric trained staff to provide caring treatment
• Digital x-rays to keep smiles healthy
• Movies and video games to make dental visits fun for kids
320-229-2222
Visit our state-of-the-art clinic any time: 151 19th Street South, Sartell, MN 56377
www.SartellKids.com

Quill & Disc inc.
Protecting Ideas through Patents
320-363-7296
St. Joseph, MN
www.quilldisc.com

DENTAL HEALTH | MORE HELP

Service beyond the smile

HAVE A PROBLEM? LET YOUR DENTIST HELP

Your local dentist can do a lot more than clean your teeth. Today's dental practices can help you with a wide range of oral health problems, letting you protect your teeth for years to come.

Here's a look at five common problems dentists can help resolve:

GRINDING TEETH

Many people develop a habit of grinding their teeth when they experience stress. It's a common issue and, given today's busy world, one that seems to be increasingly problematic.

Teeth grinding, which usually occurs during sleep, can lead to a long list of dental problems, including crooked, loose or fractured teeth and an abnormal bite. It can sometimes lead to sore jaws and a dull headache, too.

Your dentist is trained to give you options for dealing with grinding teeth that can help keep your smile protected.

CANKER SORES

Sores in your mouth can have all kinds of causes, from sharp objects in your mouth to bacteria or jagged edges on your teeth.

Whatever the cause, it is important to have a dentist diagnose frequent canker sores because, at best, they make your mouth very uncomfortable. At worst, they could be the sign of a serious disease.



PHOTO: YURI_ARCURI / YAYMICRO.COM

While sores will often heal on their own, your dentist may be able to prescribe antiviral drugs, antibiotics, oral bandages or other treatments depending on your situation.

BAD BREATH

Bad breath, also called halitosis, can be an embarrassing condition — and you might not even be aware it's occurring.

Halitosis has a variety of

causes, ranging from dry mouth to dieting or simply eating too many onions and garlic. Whatever the cause, dentists can help you track it down and find a solution that's effective for you.

WHITENING

It seems that everywhere we look, there are pictures of perfect, bright smiles. For people with discolored teeth, it can be a source of embarrassment or cause a loss in confidence, which is why teeth-whitening procedures are so popular in many dental offices.

Depending on the cause and extent of the discoloration in your teeth, dentists can recommend treatments that will improve your smile. They range from in-office bleaching to at-home bleaching and special toothpaste that can whiten your grin.

MOUTH GUARDS

Playing sports can be dangerous, but you can offer your teeth some protection with a properly fitting mouth guard that you get from a dentist.

You can certainly buy pre-made mouth guards from sports shops, but these rarely fit properly because everyone's teeth are arranged differently. A better bet, especially if you spend a lot of time playing sports that risk dental injury, is to get a custom-fit guard.



Providing Great Family Dental Care

We're here to serve you!



- Advanced Technology
- Relaxed Setting
- Emergency Care
- Extractions
- Root Canal Therapy
- Whitening
- Cleanings
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Fillings
- Dentures
- Crowns and Bridges

Specialized dentistry for infants, children and teens
New patients and emergencies welcome

PEDIATRIC DENTISTS CARING FOR KIDS



- **Pediatric trained staff** to provide caring treatment
- **Digital x-rays** to keep smiles healthy
- **Movies and video games** to make dental visits more fun for kids



Sarah Welch, D.D.S.
Pediatric Dentist

Board Certified, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Member, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry



Ashley Turrington, D.D.S.
Pediatric Dentist

Board Certified, American Board of Pediatric Dentistry Member, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

Four steps to oral health

Good oral hygiene is the key to a happy, healthy mouth. The American Dental Association (ADA) recommends these four steps to keep your teeth and gums clean:



1. BRUSH OFTEN.

You should brush your teeth at least twice a day — morning and night — to keep your teeth clean. But just as important as the schedule is the quality of the dental products you use. Make sure you're using a fluoride toothpaste that is accepted by the ADA. You should also frequently check your toothbrush for signs of wear. To do its job properly, a toothbrush should be replaced every three to four months, and even sooner if you can tell that the bristles are starting to fray.

2. FLOSS DAILY.

Everyone should floss their teeth — or use some other kind of interdental cleaner — once per day. Even if you brush your teeth regularly, there are places your toothbrush can't reach. Dental floss can reach the tight spaces between teeth and at the gums — places where germs love to hide. This will help remove plaque from your teeth and eliminate the bacteria and food particles that can cause tooth decay over time.

3. EAT RIGHT.

Your diet has a big impact on the health of your teeth. Even if you brush and floss regularly, eating the wrong foods — or even at the wrong times — can lead to tooth decay if you're not careful. The ADA recommends limiting your snacks between meals and eating a balanced diet to avoid tooth problems. Snacking between meals, especially if they're sugary snacks, should be avoided because they allow sugar to linger on your teeth longer than if you ate and drank an entire balanced meal. Foods that are high in sugar content should also be avoided. Not only is it bad for your body, but it also provides the fuel that helps bacteria to grow on your teeth and break down the surface over time.

4. SEE THE DENTIST.

Perhaps no other step is more important to oral health than regular trips to the dentist. Regularly scheduled dental checkups — involving cleaning, a professional examination and often X-rays — are a great way to catch minor dental problems before they develop into something major. That means regular checkups can actually save you money by catching issues in their early stages, when they are typically easier and cheaper to fix. Even if you think your teeth are in great shape, it's still a good idea to visit the dentist regularly for checkups. It's the only way to catch many oral health problems before they become serious.

PHOTO: ELENATHEWISE / YAYMICRO.COM



SARTELL | ST. CLOUD • 320.251.0455

SCHNEIDERORTHO.COM

Also serving Central MN with locations in Albany, Big Lake, Melrose and Milaca

HELPING FAMILIES SMILE!



LAWSON
family dental

2395 Troop Drive #101 Sartell • 320-252-6191
lawsonfamilydental.com



Dr. Michael Yapel, and his orthodontic team, are committed to providing outstanding orthodontic care for children, teens and adults throughout Central MN.

Michael J. Yapel D.D.S., M.S.
Specialist in Orthodontics

 www.yapelortho.com
(855) 251-7109


YAPEL ORTHODONTICS

YAPEL ORTHODONTICS OFFERS FREE INITIAL EXAMS

Creating straight, beautiful smiles

St. Cloud-Sartell | Big Lake | Little Falls

Michael Willemssen
for State Senate

It's time for a change.
It's time for democratic socialism!
MikeforMN.com

Prepared and paid for by
Willemssen for Senate
PO BOX 281 Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

VOTE



Evergreen Village

New and previously owned homes available
Come view the homes for sale in this beautiful
land-lease community nestled
on the north side of Sartell.

Homes are
selling fast.
Call today!

- RV storage area
- Metro transit bus line
- Close to shopping
- On-site management

198 Evergreen Road • Sartell • 320-253-5018
www.EvergreenVillage.org

BEE LINE
Bee Line Service Center, Inc.

Auto, Truck, RV & Trailer Repair
320-363-1433
8805 Ridgewood Court, St. Joseph
beelineservice.com

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

Medicare Insurance Advisors
Medicare Made Simple
IS YOUR MEDICARE PLAN GOING AWAY?
Medicare open enrollment begins Oct. 15!
We Can Help! All major plans.
We Shop the market for you!

FREE EXPERT ADVICE

NO COST

NO OBLIGATION

LOCAL SARTELL OFFICE

Phone: 320.654.6100
www.MedicareInsAdvisors.com
2107 Troop Drive, Sartell, MN 56377



PAUL HAMILTON



VOTE
★ ALEX ★
LEWANDOWSKI

SARTELL CITY COUNCIL

School board adds factors for opening schools during Covid-19

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

Decisions on future changes to learning plans during the Covid-19 pandemic will now be based on more factors than just county-wide case numbers, the Sartell-St. Stephen school board decided at its Oct. 19 meeting.

As the school year began, whether students would learn in person, in a hybrid model or distance learning was based on the number of cases per 10,000 people during a 14-day period in Stearns County. That metric led to the current plan of in-person instruction for pre-kindergarten through second grade and a hybrid plan of alternating days of in-person and distance learning for older students.

School leaders have argued that while Stearns County's case rate has increased, Sartell area numbers are much lower.

Now, the district will consider other factors when deciding how schools will operate. The district plans to consider community case rates in the district as well as rates of student and staff infections, which have been consistently lower than Stearns County rates.

The most recent county case rate of 46.36 would dictate the district move to hybrid learning for elementary students and distance learning for middle school and high school grades.

Krista Durrwachter, human resources director, said the district intends to follow the current learning plan until at least Oct. 30.

"We want to keep the (middle school and high school) kids in hybrid as long as possible," she said.

The district will continue to work with local and state health officials in setting future learning models and communicate plans every two weeks.

Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert said in addition to the number of cases, the positivity rate should be a factor in keeping schools open. He said the district's rate is around 4 percent. Health experts generally agree the positive test rate should be lower than 5 percent to relax restrictions. Minnesota's most recent positive rate is 5.2 percent and Stearns County's stands at 7.7 percent, according to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Sartell senior earns top ACT score

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

When Sartell High School senior Alice Colatrella learned she earned the highest possible score on her ACT test, she thought the rating was wrong.

"I had no clue," Colatrella said. "I definitely wasn't expecting it."

Alice, 18, is the daughter of Nicholas Colatrella and Stacy Hinkemeyer-Colatrella.

Her composite score of 36 places her in the top 1 percent of students taking the college entrance exam. In 2020, only 5,579 out of 1.67 million students earned a 36, the top score.

Colatrella's college plan may take her to Northwestern University, north of Chicago in Evanston, or Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

studied Spanish for seven years, and her family's travels have taken her to Spain, Panama, Belize and Mexico.

During a mission trip with her family to Belize, she translated for the group.

Her activities are centered around music where she plays baritone saxophone in band, cello in orchestra and sings in choir. She's a member of the Youth Chorale of Central Minnesota and Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra. Colatrella is also involved with National Honor Society and student council.

During college she'd like to take another mission trip with Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, a group her mother works with that provides vision and eye-health services.

Colatrella

With Covid-19 restrictions, Colatrella and the other seniors are finishing their high-school educations under unusual circumstances. High-school students alternate between in-person and distance-learning days.

"I'd rather be in school two days a week than none," she said. "The school has done a good job making the best of what it can be."

The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science, each scored on a scale of 1-36. A student's composite score is the average of the four scores. The score for ACT's optional writing test is reported separately and is not included with the composite score.

"Alice is a determined and motivated student who has achieved recognition in academics and music during her time at Sartell High School," said Principal Sascha Hansen. "I am very proud of her accomplishment."

'Snow days' are most recent victim of Covid-19

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

Even snow days are getting a new look in the time of Covid-19.

With some students learning at least part time from home and others in schools, how to handle the traditional Minnesota routine of calling off school for extreme winter weather needed an update, the Sartell-St. Stephen school board decided at its Oct. 19 meeting.

Administrators now have three options when winter

weather strikes.

Scenario 1: If all students are in a hybrid or in-person model, they will all get a snow day.

Scenario 2: If all students are in distance learning when a storm hits, there will be no snow day.

Scenario 3: If grades pre-kindergarten through grade five are in an in-person or hybrid plan, there will be a snow date that will need to be made up at the end of year. If grades six through 12 are in distance learning, there will be no snow day called.

"If everybody is already home doing distance learning we don't call a snow day, we just keep going" said Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert.

The district will also end the long-standing practice of calling off school in coordination with the Sauk Rapids and St. Cloud districts. Because each district might be in a different learning mode, each district will make its own call and announcement instead of one decision for all three districts.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Pumpkin giveaway brings family smiles

The Moon family of Sartell chooses a pumpkin at the annual VoigtJohnson pumpkin giveaway and food drive Oct. 24. They are (left to right) Mandi; Xander, 7; Josh; and Lainey, 4.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Trick or Treating at Monster Dash

Ryan Brinker, 8, and his sister Emma, 10, of Sartell, trick or treat Oct. 24 at booths set up along Lake Francis and on the sidewalks of the Sartell Community Center. The Sartell Chamber’s event, called “Monster Dash,” was attended by roughly 500 area children and their families.

GOT A COMMENT?

Post it on our website at www.thenewsleaders.com.



708 Elm Street E
St. Joseph, MN 56374
(320) 271-3152
www.barrettsmusic.com

Celebrating 1 Year As Your Community’s
Locally-Owned Music Retail Store!

\$15 Off

Your next purchase of \$50 or more.

Offer valid through 11/9/2020 on new in-store merchandise while supplies last, no rainchecks. Please limit one offer per household. Not applicable with any other sales or offers.

• Guitars

• Ukuleles

• Folk Instruments

• Keyboards

• Amplifiers

• Band Supplies

• Sheet Music

• Drums & Percussion

• Pro Audio

• Guitar Pedals

• Music Lessons

• Repairs

• Novelty Gifts

• Accessories

• New and Used

Thank You For Your Support!

Lions battle buckthorn in park

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

First the four men donned protective gear for hands, eyes and ears, then they marched forward and began the battle – the battle against buckthorn in Sartell’s Lions Community Park. Buckthorn is a formidable “enemy,” an invasive species that threatens healthy vegetation not just in Lions Park but just about everywhere in Minnesota and other places. The four battlers included Sartell Lions President Stu Giffin and members Dennis Molitor, Al Moritz and Phil Ringstrom (Lions Park chairman). Giffin and Moritz were cutters,

who sliced the buckthorn, leaving a stump. The “pullers and daubers” were Molitor and Ringstrom, who pulled away the debris and then daubed a systemic poison on the stump to kill the roots underneath. Later, four Sartell Public Works employees picked up and discarded the piles of buckthorn. By the end of two workdays, the Lions volunteers and city workers had removed about one-eighth of an acre of the buckthorn shrubs, which can grow into prickly trees up to 20 feet high. In fact, in Lions Park there are two buckthorn

Battle • page 15



contributed photo
Sartell Lions Club member Al Moritz cuts buckthorn in Lions Community Park in Sartell. Three other Lions Club members joined him in battling the invasive prickly shrub that can grow big as a tree.

Letters to the editor

Sartell park advocates endorse Chisum

Stuart Giffin and Phil Ringstrom, Sartell

This election like all others is important, nationally and locally. Mike Chisum has consistently asked “hard” questions when weighing in on city fiscal discussions. He correctly identified the \$1,000,000 bridge in Sauk River Regional Park would be better spent for accessible amenities for all. He consistently represents all citizens, not just special interests. This past spring, the Sartell Lions Club presented a draft proposal to the City Council to upgrade the playground at Lions Park to an inclusive playground. Mike Chisum visited the Bemidji inclusive playground, realized the applicability to Sartell’s park system, and has been the only council member to follow up on the playground proposal. Mike examines the needs of all citizens, the less advantaged, physically, financially, and just plain “folk.” Mike Chisum cares, and his leadership style shows this. Vote for Mike Chisum for another term as city council member for the growing city of Sartell.

We have not figured out our relationship with animals

Sami Nicholson, Sartell

Netflix’s explosive new documentary, “My Octopus Teacher,” chronicles a complex relationship between a man and the world’s most bizarre animal – an octopus. It further testifies to our highly conflicted relationship with non-human animals and the

natural world. Most of us treasure our “pets” – dogs, cats, horses. Our allegiance to them transcends that to our own species. If our dog and a Congolese child were competing for scarce funds for life-saving surgery, we know who would live. Yet we torment, kill and consume other animals that are similar in appearance, intelligence and ability to suffer. Then we bristle at East Asians who do the same to animals we consider pets. We pride ourselves on being intelligent, rational beings. We have gone to the moon, unraveled and modified genetic codes and found cures for deadly diseases. Yet we still have not figured out our relationship with non-human animals and the natural world. Some of us have. Vegans profess compassion and respect for all living beings. Veganism requires no special courses or certifications. Every one of us can become one by choosing non-meat foods on our next trip to the supermarket.

Chisum has clear plans, goals
Jessica Rothstein, Sartell

I would like to encourage our community to vote Mike Chisum for Sartell City Council. Mike consistently and clearly lays out his plans and goals, he is easily accessible to all constituents, he stands up for equality and his decisions are made based on what is best for the entire community. Mike has proven himself as a valuable voice for reason for our city during the past four years. Make a solid choice on Nov. 3 by voting Mike Chisum.

Election affects environment

Tony Dingmann, Sartell

Often times, I shy away from political conversations and debates. However, I do not shy away from being vocal and passionate about the care and preservation of our environment. I want to educate and share information in an effort to create awareness as we look to the future of our environmental conservation here in Minnesota and beyond. As the November election approaches, there are many topics to consider so I want to provide you with facts about recent decisions made by our country’s leaders that have directly impacted our environment. **Air:** The current federal administration has weakened rules compelling auto companies to produce more fuel-efficient vehicles. By dropping the improvement standard from 5 percent to 1.5 percent, vehicles will emit roughly one billion more metric tons of heat-trapping (climate-warming) carbon dioxide into the air. Also, restrictions on greenhouse-gas emissions from coal plants were either eased or lifted completely, no longer requiring plants to meet strict goals to help lessen greenhouse gases. Lastly, the newly appointed Environmental Pollution Agency officials have disbanded the air pollution review panel comprised of experts in the health dangers of air pollution. **Water:** In May of 2019, many safety rules and regulations were rolled back that were set in place in 2010 after the British Petroleum oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The

“Stream Protection Rule,” which placed stricter restrictions on dumping mining waste into surrounding waterways, was overturned, allowing for the potential of severely polluted waters across the country. Most recently, the “Waters of the United States” rule was repealed, allowing for industries and individuals to no longer need permits to discharge harmful substances into streams and/or wetlands. Closer to home, the administration is pushing forward to renew leases to mine near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area that were initially cancelled over environmental concerns. If this mining occurs, the possibility of toxic pollution runoff could be detrimental to 1.1 million acres within the Superior National Forest, which contains more than 1,100 lakes and roughly 1,500 miles of rivers. **Land:** The administration has proposed to downsize Bear’s Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah by 85 and 46 percent respectively, opening the door for mining, logging and drilling within the National Monuments areas. Since 2017, the National Environmental Policy Act has been under attack which has significantly impacted the general public. NEPA is one of the general public’s most powerful tools that requires public notice for land management decisions being made on public lands. The revisions propose to empower regulators to move forward with projects without first having environmental reviews or public-comment periods. Lastly, in January 2019, an executive order instructed nearly four billion board feet of timber to be

logged off of federal lands, up 31 percent from 2017, with no environmental review. **Wildlife:** A proposal is on the table to make several changes to the Endangered Species Act which would forbid referring to economic impacts as a reason for listing a species. In addition, the changes would give regulators the freedom to avoid designating critical habitat for specific species. In March 2019, the administration ended the 2015 Sage Grouse Conservation Plan opening roughly eight million acres of critical Sage Grouse habitat to fossil-fuel extraction in the western United States. No matter which side of the political aisle you are on at any time, I want to encourage you to consider what our environmental future looks like as a state and country. We are the advocates for our lands and natural resources, and here in Minnesota we are blessed that ours are so abundant – our landscapes, lakes and rivers are what make Minnesota a state to be valued, treasured and protected. I hope these facts help as you prepare to make educated voting decisions this November. In the end, all I ask is that you consider advocating for our environmental preservation and protection, whether it’s through a vote, volunteerism, community engagement or just sharing an outdoor experience with a child. As Aldo Leopold said, “We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

Public notice

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748
SEPT. 21, 2020
SARTELL MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

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

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Byrd to APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. All in favor. Motion carried.

During the public comment opportunity, Kristen Petersen, 827 Ninth Ave. N.; Kim Tjaden, 1490 Riverside Ave. N.; Zurya Anjum, 1609 Blackberry Circle; Summbla Anjum, 1609 Blackberry Circle, all spoke in support of the revised equity audit proposal on tonight’s agenda.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Byrd to APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS A.4.a-A.4.d AS PRESENTED BELOW. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Marushin, Byrd, Snoberger and Nies. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 4-0.

A.4.a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on Aug. 17, 2020

Minutes of the school board work session held on Sept. 2, 2020

A.4.b Checks in the amount of \$1,739,684.39 as presented:	
General Fund	1,330,368.59
Food Service Fund	71,861.39
Transportation Fund	11,835.07
Community Service Fund	48,006.15
Capital Expenditure Fund	275,034.83
Summer Rec Agency Fund	34.42
Activity Accounts	2,543.94
Check numbers 179174 – 179454	

ACHs in the amount of \$1,393.86 as presented:	
General Fund	765.93
Food Service Fund	55.20
Community Service Fund	75.00
Activity Fund	497.73
ACH numbers 202000012-202000020	

Receipts in the amount of \$7,036,276.86 as presented:	
General Fund	6,775,644.05
Food Service Fund	13,175.20
Transportation Fund	18,885.99
Community Service Fund	22,140.87
Capital Expenditure Fund	26,441.08
Building Fund	590.56
Debt Service Fund	168,132.41
Activity Accounts	2,709.02
Internal Service Fund	8,557.68
Receipts 47880 - 47950	

Wire transfers in the amount of \$554,233.73 as presented:	
General Fund	76,689.48
Food Service Fund	12,192.90
Transportation Fund	23,327.32
Community Service Fund	593.82
Capital Expenditure Fund	21,649.56
Building Fund	48,434.20
Activity Accounts	500.00
Internal Service Fund	370,846.45
Wire transfers 202000075-202000138	

Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$760,285.06 as presented:	
Building Fund	760,285.06
Check numbers 601094 to 601132	

A.4.c Accept the following donations:

Tony and Elise Dingmann Fund of Central Minnesota Community Foundation, Sartell High School, \$2,496.41, high school band program; SSEF, ISD #748, \$100, new teacher orientation.

A.4.d Accept the resignation of Daniel Bauer, RIS, custodian, 8/21/20; Gregory Bertrand, ORELC, pre-school, 8/24/20; Brian Bluhm, ORELC, para, 8/31/20; Sarah Claseman, RIS, para, 8/27/20; Nolan Frank, RIS, para, 8/20/20; Dawn Gent, PMPS, instructional coach, 9/11/20; Andrea Keske-Sovich, ORELC, food service, 8/20/20; Jordyn Kruse, RIS, para, 8/25/20; Dennis Molitor, Transportation, sub bus driver, 8/17/20; Lynn Plumski, District, sub food service, 9/8/20; Kristine Schroers, SMS, para, 9/18/20; Annette Theisen, SHS, food service, 8/18/20; Hannah Waldham, PMPS, para, 8/27/20.

Student Representative Report: Sarah Courtney Snoberger, student representative

Student Representative Snoberger reported on happenings around the district. Both Oak Ridge and Pine Meadow are focusing on new Sabre-Strong initiatives to recognize students and staff each month. This year’s Big Brothers and Big Sisters night will be held virtually for the elementary schools. Riverview Intermediate has started the year with many new designs including some changes to student pick up and drop off. Students are enjoying the redesigned area, including the Pier, along with utilizing some outdoor classrooms. Fifth-grade students will be reading the morning announcements to students. The Middle School started fall sports last week and will begin Sabre Singers and drama programs next week. The High School kicked off the new school year with SabreSplash for students. Some sports have started their season with football and volleyball starting at the end of September. Student Council has held a welcome back week and fall spirit week with dress-up days. Students have been writing notes and stories in remembrance of Mr. Froemming and plan to give the book to his family once it is complete.

Superintendent Report: Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent

Superintendent, Schwiebert reported tonight’s agenda is the first time in three years that there is no construction report and it's a great feeling to have the projects wrapping up. Adjustments have been made to student drop-off and bus routes that has improved upon the first week of school. The process has now been going fairly well with kindergarten students being taken to Pine Meadow and then transferred to other busses. River-

view Intermediate was ready to go for the first day of school thanks to staff and community members. The MSHSL announced they were bringing back football and volleyball, having voted to delay their seasons earlier this month. Our school board does not have a vote on athletic seasons as the MSHSL board of directors votes on those decisions.

District Finance Report: Director of Business Services Joe Prom provided an update on district finances.

COVID-19 Report: Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert and Director of Human Resources Krista Durrwachter provided an update on how the district is moving forward with COVID-19.

ISD 748 Multi-Tiered System of Support Report: Members of the District Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) team members Kay Nelson, Sara Nelson, Jill Murphy and Marie Pangerl reported on the implementation of MTSS districtwide.

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

School Board Committee Report: Treasurer Patrick Marushin reported on the Finance Committee meeting that was held on Sept. 16.

A motion was made by Byrd and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE #1-52:

New Employees/Changes: Andrea Benninghoff, SMS, junior high soccer, \$1,334 (6.35 percent), BA, A (\$42,002), 50-percent contract, replacing Jen Rueckert, 9/14/2020; Roxanne Chandler, SMS, para, \$16.42/hr,RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, replacing LuAnn McIlwain, 9/10/2020; Shayna Dickson, SHS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, replacing Marina Schroeder, 9/21/2020; Julie Diethelm, RIS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Nolan Frank, 9/8/2020; Nolan Frank, SMS, sixth-grade – LTS, \$229/day, replacing Mike Maurer, 8/31/2020; Jacob Hennigs, SMS, accompanist, \$16.82/hour, RV, S1, 40 min/day, replacing Irina Stine, 9/8/2020; Jacob Hennigs, ORELC, music, \$13,999, BA, Step A, .33 FTE, additional need, 8/31/2020; Stacey Hiltner, RIS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Wendy Meierhofer, 9/21/2020; Angie Hochhalter, PMPS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV,

\$1,625 hours/day, replacing Mafoule Kenyon, 9/1/2020; Shannon Houghton, SMS, junior high cross country, \$2,667 (6.35 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Greg Henning, 8/31/2020; Alyssa Johnson, RIS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Jordyn Kruse, 9/1/2020; Abbey Kajer, ORELC, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Brian Bluhm, 9/4/2020; Mafoule Kenyon, PMPS, para, \$19.45/hour, RIV, S4, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Jennifer Nelson, 8/31/2020; Sue Kloetzer, PMPS, AM cashier, \$17.55/hour, RI, S3, 1 hour/day, replacing Priscilla Lessard, 8/27/2020; Sue Kutz, RIS, para, \$21.87/hour, RIV, S6, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Nancy Walters, 8/31/2020; Priscilla Lessard, ORELC, AM cashier, \$16.89/hour, R1, S2,1.25 hour/day, replacing Andrea Keske-Sovich, 8/20/2020; McKenzie Lyon, ORELC, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Kaiya Anderson, 9/4/2020; Riley Marod, SHS, ninth-grade volleyball, \$3,990 (9.5 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Natalie Helgersen, 8/17/2020; LuAnn McIlson, SHS, receptionist, \$18.77, RII, S1, 8 hours/day, 202 days/year, replacing Kristy Gosch, 8/31/2020;

Wendy Meierhofer, PMPS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Terri Johnson, 9/1/2020; Nicole Nieman, RIS, custodian, \$17.61/hour, RIII, S1, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year, replacing Daniel Bauer, 9/21/2020; Matthew Oleson, SMS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, replacing Sue Kutz, 10/12/2020; Joy Patino, RIS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Denise Waldvogel, 9/8/2020; Jill Peterson, ORELC, cashier, \$15.89/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, Andrea Keske-Sovich, 9/8/2020; Tara Peterson, RIS, Para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Tina Taufen, 9/1/2020; Alexis Roberts, RIS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Madison Rosenow, 9/1/2020; Sadie Rolffhus, PMPS, elementary education, \$42,002, BA, Step A, new position, 8/31/2020; Madison Rosenow, PMPS, para, \$18.52/hour, RIV, S3, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Tracy Christian, 9/1/2020;

Diane Santala, SHS, AM cashier, \$19.09/hour, RI, S5, 1 hour/day, replacing Annette Theisen, 8/20/2020; Melissa Schlueter, RIS, para, \$16.42/hr, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Angie Hochhalter, 9/8/2020; Julie Schnet, RIS, **Minutes • page 15**

Opinion

Our View Electoral College must be abolished

We always hear about the electoral college during presidential elections because it's how we elect the president. Even though we all vote for a candidate, what actually matters is an arcane mathematical formula in which each state gets a proportionate number of electors to actually vote for the president. Our individual votes are supposed to tell our state's electors whom to vote for.

The idea a state, a geographic region drawn on a map, votes for a person seems crazy in today's world. People vote, not land. Electoral votes are based on the population inside those random boundaries. This means a large physical, but low-population state would have less electors than a state with a small physicality and larger population. The number of electors for each state is determined by population; how many representatives plus the two senators each state sends to the U.S. Congress.

This is the thing that's given us our Red States versus Blue States mentality. Each side has its "safe" electoral votes, and only by getting 270 or more electoral votes nationwide can someone be president.

Hypothetically, this should correspond to who actually gets the most votes, but it doesn't! In fact, it's been shown this year, Joe Biden is only likely to win the presidency if he wins the national popular vote by 5 percent or more. Five percent of the votes cast in 2016, our most recent election, would be about 6.4 million votes. To put that into perspective, that is like not counting the votes of all the people (total population, not just voters) in Wyoming, Vermont, Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Delaware, Rhode Island and Montana combined. Coincidentally, those states are split evenly red and blue in the current election.

We have a system where someone can get millions more votes than their opponent and still lose! That's insane. Hillary Clinton won the popular vote in 2016 by 3 million votes but still lost because of the electoral college.

Often, Republicans like the electoral college because losing the popular vote but winning the electoral college is their path to victory. To you fine folks we say that's a bunch of malarkey. If the shoe was on the other foot, would you be OK with that? If the blue team had won two out of the last five elections despite not having the popular vote, would you think that's just fine?

Furthermore, Republicans in Minnesota, you live in a blue state. It's a safely blue state. Wouldn't you like your vote to go toward your candidate's victory, rather than just being a number that has no effect on the race? Rural populations tend to vote Republican, but they don't have the numbers to overcome the more populous urban centers that vote Democrat. There just aren't as many people in all of rural Minnesota as there are in cities. And cities will tend to vote for Dems because larger population centers in a smaller physical space will require more public services than a widespread small rural population.

Everyone should want to abolish the electoral college because it gives more power to their individual votes. "But," you say, "don't we live in a republic of states not of people?" And to that we say, nope! In fact, even if you think that's what the founders intended, it was the Democratic Republicans under Jefferson and Madison who wanted that. Federalists such as Alexander Hamilton, John Adams and even George Washington, who never officially joined the party, believed we are not just a collection of states but one country with one rule and law that superseded states.

Our elections have evolved along with our democracy. Throughout our 200-plus-years history, we have expanded voting rights to women, Black people, non-land-owning males, changed the allotment of electoral votes, changed how we send senators to Congress and more. We have a moral imperative to always strive for a more equal country. We must amend our U.S. Constitution, as we have many times in our nations' history, to remove the electoral college. Your vote, red or blue, depends on it.

Newsroom ghost scared me half to death

Boo!

I'll never forget that terrifying time when – in a split second – I suddenly saw a ghost.

Years ago, in the dead of a chilly fall night, I drove to the Alexandria news office to write a Halloween feature story about ghosts. Earlier that day, I'd interviewed five or six people in several cities of Douglas County who claimed they had seen or experienced ghosts at some point in their lives. Ever the skeptic, I listened intently as they told me their strange stories, but I kept thinking such creepy goings-on could be explained, somehow, by other natural factors. Real ghosts or not, the goose-bump stories were so wonderfully eerie. And I had to admit I couldn't conjure up any rational reasons for what caused things to go bump in the night.

One couple I interviewed felt a blast of cold air in their kitchen and then pots, pans, kettles and dishes flew with a crashing clatter from cupboards.

Another story was about a ghost sometimes seen in an upstairs storage room of an old farmhouse. The ghost was a female wearing an old-fashioned dress from a previous century. She was glowing and semi-transparent and would appear in the room, walk across the floor, look out a window and then slowly fade. The apparition was so spooky, family members dreaded entering that room.

On my way to the office, I mulled

Dennis
Dalman
Reporter



over those and other ghost sightings, pondering how best to write the story. It was late at night, about 11 p.m., when I arrived at the office and let myself in with my key. The inner offices were dark so I turned on a couple lights. Then I sat down in my office, reviewed the notes I'd written and began to write the story on my computer.

The office area, like most newsrooms, was a large, mainly open area in which the work cubicles were separated by those movable, portable walls about six feet tall.

In the quiet office with my desk lamp glowing, I began to write the story, consulting my notes every couple of minutes. As I reviewed every detail of every ghost sighting, I began to get a case of the heebie-jeebies. In that big, empty, quiet news office, abandoned to the night, me in there all alone, the ghost stories were a lot scarier than they were during the day-time interviews.

"What if?" I paused to wonder. "What if ghosts really do exist?"

Those people I talked with were intelligent, level-headed – not the types to cook up ghost stories.

I kept writing, pondering . . . And then BOO!, I suddenly saw something bright-white skittering along the top of the divider wall a few feet from me. I jumped and let out a strangled gasp as my heart started pounding so loud it rattled my chest.

Just then, a woman was standing in the doorway, right next to me.

"Dennis, what's the matter?" she asked. "Is something wrong?"

Whew! Relief! It was Liz the cleaning lady, working late that night in the news building.

"I just saw a ghost," I said, heart still pounding.

"A ghost?!" she asked, suddenly scared, too.

"Yes, a ghost! That white dusting rag you're holding. It was skittering on top of the dividing wall. A ghost. Liz the newsroom ghost."

"Oh, I'm sorry," she said. "I didn't mean to scare you. I was just dusting."

"Yes, and I'm mighty glad that rag was attached to the hand of a real human being," I assured her.

I told her I'd just been working on a story about ghosts. She started laughing; I started laughing, but it still took awhile for that shock to wear off.

The ghost-sightings story was published that Friday. I learned later it scared a lot of readers, not to mention a writer – me. To this day, every time someone tells me about ghosts, I listen up, keeping old doubts at bay.

There is no excuse for not voting

When this article is published, there will be less than a week until Election Day. As someone who has never been able to vote in a presidential election before, it feels like it has been simultaneously forever and barely any time at all since 2016 where I had to sit out on voting because of my age. Being able to vote this time around is an important milestone I've been looking forward to since I turned 18. Though it may seem silly to attach such importance to such a small event such as voting, it's important to remember that many people around the world don't even get the opportunity to choose their leaders. This is why I have talked about voting so much during the past month – because I truly believe if we want to advance change in our local communities and country at large, there is no excuse for not voting.

All the way back in 1776, the founders of our country declared independence because they were ruled from afar by a tyrannical king whom they did not choose but who nevertheless had influence in almost every aspect of their lives. They instead set out to create a government that would be chosen by and responsible to the people of the United States. While the right to vote has been shamefully denied to many people, such as Black Americans and women throughout our history, the ideal we have slowly and painfully been

Connor
Kockler
Guest Writer



living up to is that every American of voting age should be able to have a say in who runs their government at the federal, state and local level.

Just like there shouldn't be an excuse for not voting, there also should be no excuse for making it harder for people to vote. We have heard almost as much news about court cases trying to restrict avenues of voting as the actual election itself. Texas has been embroiled in legal action over its governor's action to restrict the number of ballot drop boxes in each county. Pennsylvania and South Carolina have seen court actions seeking to restrict the use of absentee ballots. These cases go against the expert consensus showing the risk of voter fraud is virtually nonexistent and that such measures often just make it harder for people who are trying to cast their ballots legitimately to do so. In a democracy like the United States, we should not be trying to make it harder for legitimate voters to make their voices heard.

There may also be people who feel the political system doesn't respond to

them, that no matter who they vote for nothing will change. While the dysfunction in our political process makes these concerns valid, I would suggest not voting actually makes things worse. When you choose to refrain from participating in voting, politicians know they no longer have to take your opinions into account. Not voting, in a certain sense, is voting to have your voice ignored. Even if you don't like any of the major parties and want to do a write-in vote, that is at least a signal of your dissatisfaction with the choices you have. And if enough voters do that in sufficient numbers, it turns into a movement large enough that politicians will have to start appealing to those voters.

So, this Election Day make it a point to get out and vote if you haven't voted by mail or in-person absentee already, as I did. After all, it's something we only get the chance to do every few years. Going to vote often takes less time than going to the store or driving to work. So why wouldn't we do it? Taking some time now will decide how our country, states and cities are run for the next two to four years. I think that fact alone is worth the effort.

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

GOT AN
OPINION?

Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification)

The Newsleaders
1622 11th Ave S.
St. Cloud, MN 56304

Email: news@thenewsleaders.com

Fewer younger students in school Minutes

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

There are fewer younger students attending school this fall and parents’ concerns about Covid-19 are at least part of the reason.

There are 250 kindergarten students this fall, compared with 311 at the end of last

year. Sartell-St. Stephen school district leaders expected a year-to-year decrease of about 35 students instead of the actual drop of 61.

Preschool enrollment of 3-year-olds is 15, down from 76 last year. But that drop is because the district is only offering services for special educa-

tion children in that age group.

Enrollment of 4-year-olds stands at 91, down from 112 at the end of last year.

Superintendent Jeff Schwi- bert said the numbers are “not a surprise.” Parents are waiting to send their children, especial- ly those at the younger end of grade age range, to school.

Battle from page 12

trees, each with a trunk about one foot in diameter, Ringstrom noted.

More work is required to remove even more buckthorn in that park, and more work is to take place in late October, early November. The ongoing part- nership/cooperation between the Lions and the city has made such projects – and many oth- ers – possible through the years, Giffin said.

The noxious buckthorn once had a useful purpose. The plants

were brought from Europe to serve as protective dense hedg- es and borders on crop land and pasture grazing lands. The trouble is, the once-useful plant became a real nuisance over time and caused dense thick- ets in forests, parks, roadsides and even in yards. Buckthorn, which grows via fibrous roots, crowds out native plants and takes over beneficial shrubs and small trees in forests where many species of birds nest, ac- cording to the Minnesota De- partment of Natural Resources.

Furthermore, the DNR states the prolific pest out-competes other good plants for light and moisture, contributes to ero-

sion, forms impenetrable layers of vegetation, lacks natural con- trols (like insects, disease) and can harbor other pests such as crown-rust fungus and soybean aphids.

Buckthorn has glossy-green elongated leaves and toward fall purple-black berries. Birds often eat the berries and then excrete them here and there, causing the buckthorn to spread more and more.

The Lions Club members well know the battle against buckthorn in the park is not won. Come spring, they’ll have to gird up for battle and fight again.

VETERANS FOUGHT FOR OUR WAY OF LIFE. IT'S OUR DUTY TO FIGHT FOR THEIRS.

DAV helps veterans of all ages and their families receive the benefits they earned. Lend support or get free help at DAV.org.

DAV

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVESTIGATE BEFORE YOU INVEST! Midwest Free Community Paper Association does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all classifieds and other ads which require an investment. (MCN)

AUTOMOBILES

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-752-6680 (MCN)

DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. CALL 1-855-977-7030 (MCN)

CASH FOR CARS: We Buy Any Condition Vehicle, 2002 and Newer. Competitive Offer! Nationwide FREE Pick Up! Call Now For a Free Quote! 888-366-5659. (MCN)

CABLE/INTERNET

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 855-824-1258. (MCN)

Earthlink High Speed Internet. As Low As \$14.95/month (for the first 3 months.) Reliable High Speed. Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today 1-855-679-7096 (MCN)

High-Speed Internet. We instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99/month! Quickly compare offers from top pro-

viders. Call 1-855-399-9295 (MCN)

DISH TV \$59.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. 1-844-316-8876. (MCN)

AT&T TV – The Best of Live & On-Demand. Anytime, anywhere. Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-866-387-0621. (MCN) EDUCATION

Attention Active Duty & Military Veterans! Begin a new career and earn your Degree at CTI! Online Computer & Medical training available for Veterans & Families! To learn more, call 855-960-0997. (MCN)

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: 10 , 12 , 14, & 16 DUMP trailers. 16,000 lb. & 20,000 lb. bumper-pull Gravity Tilt Skidloader/Mini-hoe trailers. 6’X12 V-nose ramp door \$3,299.00; Pull-Behind Motorcycle trailers \$1,299.00; Go to www.FortDodgeTrailerWorld.com for inventory & prices. 515-972-4554. (MCN)

HEALTH & MEDICAL

Stay in your home longer with an American Standard Walk-In Bathtub. Receive up to \$1,500 off, including a free toilet, and a lifetime warranty on the tub and installation! Call us at 1-855-372-3080 or visit www.walkintubquote.com/midwest (MCN)

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 844-716-2411. (MCN)

MobileHelp, America’s Premier Mobile Medical Alert System. Whether You’re Home or Away. For Safety and Peace of Mind. No Long Term Contracts! Free Brochure! Call Today! 1-855-385-9770. (MCN)

INCOME OPPORTUNITIES

NEW AUTHORS WANTED! Page Publishing will help you self-publish your own book. FREE author submission kit! Limited offer! Why wait? Call now: 855-623-8796 (MCN)

Become a published author! Publications sold at all major secular & specialty Christian bookstores. CALL Christian Faith Publishing for your FREE author submission kit. 1-888-981-5761. (MCN)

MISCELLANEOUS

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-577-1268. Promo Code 285. (MCN)

WANT TO BUY

Need some cash! Sell us your unwanted gold, jewelry, watches & diamonds. Call GOLD GEEK 1-866-274-7898 or visit www.GetGoldGeek.com/midwest BBB A Plus Rated. Request your 100 Percent FREE, no risk, no strings attached appraisal kit. Call today! (MCN)

from page 13

para 1:1, \$20.35/hour, RIV, S5, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Sarah Claseman, 9/1/2020; Christopher Schumer, SMS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, replacing Rachel Rhines, 9/10/2020; Tracy Steinhoff, District, SLP digital navigator, \$32.50/hour, 6 hours/day, new position, 9/21/2020; Charity Terhune, Transp, sub van driver, \$21.37/hour, hours vary, additional assignment, 9/2/2020; Denise Waldvogel, PMPS, para, \$21.87/hour, RIV, S6, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Hannah Waldham, 9/1/2020; Lyndsey Welch, assistant girls' swim, SHS, \$3,990 (9.5 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Jennifer Thompson, 8/20/2020.

New Employee – Pending Licensure:

Naomi Kuplic, SMS, eighth-grade global Sstudies – LTS, \$42,002, BA, Step A, replacing Jason Spohn, 8/31/20.

Leaves of Absence:

Tracy Christian, PMPS, para, LOA, 20-21 school year; Alicia Fosso, RIS, fifth-grade teacher, LOA, 11/5/20-1/22/21; Rustie Froemming, SHS, business teacher, LOA, 8/31/20-11/30/20; Terri Johnson, PMPS, para, LOA, 20-21 school year; June Krone, RIS, food service, LOA, 8/31/20-12/31/20; Mike Maurer, SMS, sixth-grade teacher, LOA, 8/31/20-11/20/20; Charity Pesta, RIS, receptionist, Intermittent LOA, 20-21 school year; LuAnn McIlwain, SMS, para, LOA, 20-21 school year; Jennifer Nelson, RIS, para, LOA, 20-21 school year; Brittany Olson, PMPS, second-grade teacher, LOA, 12/4/20-3/10/21; Rachel Rhines, SMS, para, LOA, 20-21 school year; Jason Spohn, SMS, social studies teacher, LOA, 20-21 school year; Kari Tuomi, RIS, para, LOA, 20-21 school year; Kayla Vadnais, RIS, para, LOA, 8/31/20-10/30/20; Nancy Walters, RIS, para, LOA, 20-21 school year.

On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Marushin, Byrd, Snoberger and Nies. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by Marushin TO APPROVE OFFICIAL REVISIONS TO POLICIES 205 AND 613. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Marushin, Byrd, Snoberger and Nies. The following voted against:

none. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Marushin TO APPROVE REVISED EQUITY ALLIANCE PROPOSAL FOR SERVICES. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Marushin, Byrd, Snoberger and Nies. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Byrd TO AUTHORIZE KAY NELSON TO ACT AS THE IDENTIFIED OFFICIAL WITH AUTHORITY (IOWA) SARTELL-ST ST.STEPHEN DISTRICT 0748-01. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Marushin, Byrd, Snoberger and Nies. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by Byrd and seconded by Marushin TO APPROVE AND ADOPT THE UPDATED TEACHER EVALUATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE SARTELL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Marushin, Byrd, Snoberger and Nies. The following voted against: none. Motion carried 4-0.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Future Board Listening Session (Distance Learning) – Wednesday, Oct. 7 – Sartell Middle School Performing Arts Center @ 6:30 p.m.

Future Board Meeting – Monday, Oct. 19 – Sartell Middle School Performing Arts Center @ 6:30 p.m.

Official Review of Policies: The Board had the official second reading of adoption of proposed policy 630.

Committee Assignments were reviewed.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:02 p.m. was made by Byrd and seconded by Marushin. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Amanda Byrd, Clerk

Published: Oct. 30, 2020

FINANCIAL PLANNING | TARGETS

Time to Set Goals

Financial goals inspire, motivate and mobilize us into action. They keep us on track during the tough months and help us avoid unnecessary impulse spending that can have a negative impact on our finances.

And setting a goal is the easy part. Sticking to that goal is where the challenge begins.

Unforeseen expenses, untimely bills and material temptations are part of daily life. Only those who are serious about overcoming these roadblocks are truly ready to achieve their financial objectives.

HOW TO SET A GOAL

Don't wait until your New Year's resolution to set your new financial goals. Grab your past few bank statements, a piece of paper and a pencil, and get busy.

Write down where every one of your pennies went during the past couple of months and organize them into sections like "necessary bills," "entertainment" and "eating out."

Determine which one of these segments has some wiggle room and set a goal to decrease similar spending next month.

DEFINE YOUR GOALS

When it comes to finances, you should have short-term and long-term goals. A short-term goal may be a plan to pay off a credit card or save enough to put a down payment on a new house.

What types of purchases or payoffs are you looking to accomplish in the next six to 12 months? Put them down on paper and keep track of monthly progress toward your goal.

And stay dedicated. Even an extra \$20 saved from eating in on a Friday night can go a long way toward

achieving your goal and building your confidence in your ability to save.

BE REALISTIC

If you earn \$3,000 month, it probably isn't a realistic goal to shove \$2,000 of your income into savings every 30 days. Be honest with yourself and

choose a number that you can achieve within your short- or long-term target.

If you have more than one financial goal, it is probably best to choose a primary one that receives most of your attention. This will help keep you focused on where to most effectively distribute your income.

And remember to think about the long term. Growing your savings can seem like a sacrifice in the short term, but the more you sacrifice now, the more wealth you'll be able to achieve. You'll be living a much more secure, financially rewarding life in the future if you take the right steps today.



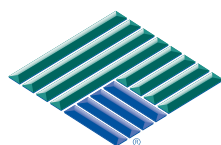
© FOTOLIA / AP

Things didn't go as planned.

As you build your new goals, rely on a business banking partner that's strong, innovative and driven to help you succeed.

Visit StearnsBank.com/business to learn about the checking and savings options you can count on.

Call us today to get started: (320) 253-6607



STEARNS
BANK N.A.

Follow us [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [v](#)
StearnsBank.com

