

Newsleaders

Reaching Everybody!

Friday, Jan. 8, 2021
Volume 26, Issue 1
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Sew masks to keep community safe!

Thank you to everyone who continues to sew masks to help keep our community safe! Make and donate cloth masks for youth and adult members to keep our community safe. Completed masks can be dropped off at Coborn's, 900 Cooper Ave. S., St. Cloud, behind the service counter during store hours. Questions, contact Mary Krippner, director of volunteer engagement, at 320-223-7991.

Tri-CAP in need of donated vehicles

Tri-CAP accepts donated vehicles, works with local repair shops to make them safe, and then they sell them to income-qualified residents in Stearns, Benton or Sherburne counties. All proceeds from the program support future vehicle repairs and the programs operation. Tri-CAP is a licensed dealership with the state of Minnesota, to best protect the donors and clients we they work with. If a vehicle is sold to a client in need at the discounted price, the full fair market value may be used as a tax deduction (please review with a tax professional). To learn more about the donation process, check out their website at <https://tricap.org/vehicle-donation/> or call 320-251-1612.

BBBS seeks mentors

Children are needing mentorship now more than ever! Big Brothers Big Sisters offers virtual matching – you can attend an info session, be interviewed and meet your Little through Zoom! This is a one-on-one volunteer opportunity to provide friendship and guidance to a child in central Minnesota. The volunteer will meet with their Little three to four times a month for 12 months. Sign up for a Zoom Info Session on their website today! Visit www.BigDefenders.org and click on Be a Big or call 320-258-4534.

Newsleaders seeks GoFundMe donations

During these turbulent times, advertising support has dwindled. The Newsleaders wants to continue providing up-to-the-minute local coverage both on our website and in print. Please help support the Newsleaders by viewing/contributing to our GoFundMe page on Facebook. Thank you to our recent contributors! Any amount is greatly appreciated.

Fourth breakthrough on thin ice on area lakes

by Heidi L. Everett
editor@thenewsleaders.com

For the fourth time in two weeks, Stearns County sheriff deputies have been called to a breakthrough on thin ice.

On Jan. 3, deputies were dispatched to Big Watab Lake in Collegeville Township for a fish house that went through the ice.

When deputies arrived, they found the fish house was being removed from the water. The fish house had gone through a section of thin ice approximately 30-40 yards away from the west shoreline, closest to 30095 Lilac Road. The ice was four to six inches thick in the section it broke through.

According to the sheriff's report, Michael Stang of St. Joseph said he was pulling his 16-foot fish house with his UTV, when he felt the fish

Break • page 4



contributed photo

A fish house owned by Michael Stang, St. Joseph, is pulled from Big Watab Lake Jan. 3 after it broke through thin ice. It was the fourth breakthrough in two weeks on area lakes.

School superintendent search launches

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

The search for a new Sartell-St. Stephen school district superintendent is off to a fast start. A survey should be online Friday, Jan. 8, and focus-group meetings will take place next week, according to a schedule the school board approved Jan. 4.

The district hired consultants School Exec Connect to

conduct the search after Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert told the board last month that he plans to retire at the end of June.

A survey asking questions about the district's strengths, goals and the desired characteristics of a new superintendent will be available from a link on the district's website. Starting next week, Bob Ostlund and Ken Dragseth from the search firm will organize

five focus groups. The two men are longtime Minnesota educators and former superintendents.

Focus groups will be arranged for district administrators, teachers, support staff, high school students and community members/parents. Each focus group will include 10 to 15 people and last about 45 minutes.

Normally, the focus groups are conducted in person but

because of COVID-19 restrictions, they will probably take place virtually.

The consultants will present focus-group and survey results and a profile of a future superintendent to the board at its Jan. 25 meeting.

While the research takes place, advertising and recruitment of applicants will begin and run until Feb. 24.

By March 1, the board

Search • page 11

Get your ski on and more at county parks



photo by Heidi L. Everett

Sonja Gidlow, Avon, walks her dog, Luna, Dec. 31 at Kraemer Lake-Wildwood County Park in St. Joseph. She visits the park three times a week year-around for walking, snow shoeing and skiing.

by Heidi L. Everett
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Stearns County Parks and the Nordic Ski Club of Central Minnesota are challenging you to cross country ski (or hike or snowshoe) this month.

"This year has been a challenge for everybody," said Sarah Weed, parks operations coordinator for Stearns County Parks. "One of our annual events, the Moonlight Ski, usually occurs the first weekend in January with a chili feed and raffle."

Like so many other events, the Moonlight Ski was cancelled due to the pandemic, so the parks department and ski club came up with a new plan.

"We are encouraging people to use all four of our ski parks in

January and then register their name in the Moonlight Ski Challenge drawing," Weed said.

People can enter the drawing once for each park visited and earn additional entries for using all four parks or joining the Nordic Ski Club of Central Minnesota.

The drawing, which will take place in February, is for water bottles, Quarry Park annual parking permits, Wildwood Maple Syrup and gift certificates to Revolution Cycle & Ski as well as Fitzharris Ski & Sport.

The annual parking pass and maple syrup give a shout out to two of the county's parks with ski trails: Quarry Park in Waite Park and Kraemer Lake-Wildwood Park in St. Joseph. The

Ski • page 3

Obituaries

Kathleen "Kay" Vouk, 77
St. Stephen
Feb. 12, 1943-Dec. 22, 2020

K a t h y (Kay) Vouk, 77, died at home on Dec. 22, with her adoring husband by her side. Her funeral will be held at a later date when all those who loved and cared for her can be together to celebrate her life. Memorials are preferred.

She was born in St. Cloud to John and Martha (Justin) Schumer on Feb. 12, 1943. She completed elementary school in St. Stephen, District 130 and graduated from Cathedral High School in 1961. She lived in St. Stephen for most of her life, moving to St. Joseph with her husband in August of 2019. She worked at Minoco Lens Co. in St. Stephen until September, 1964. She married



Vouk

Jim Vouk in St. Stephen on Oct. 12th, 1963. She was a full-time homemaker, day-care provider, gardener, cake decorator and an amazing cook and baker, being well known for her Christmas and chocolate chip cookies, rhubarb crisp and lemon meringue "angel" pie. She was a wonderful wife and a kind, caring and compassionate mother to her 10 children. She was a member of St. Stephen Catholic Church and past member of the Christian Mothers. She had a strong faith, with a special devotion to our blessed Mother and to St. Therese of Lisieux. She enjoyed playing bingo, 500 card games and trips to the casino. She loved listening to old-time music on KASM and watching Mollie B Polka Party. She enjoyed embroidery, growing her flowers and plants, decorating the front of her house, but, above all, she cherished her time spent with her friends and family, especially her children and grandchildren.

Survivors are her husband

of 57 years; loving children: Frank (Lisa), St. Stephen; Jackie Lee, St. Cloud; Andy (Tammy), Boise, Idaho; Gerise (Steve) Thompson, Minneapolis; Jason (Kirsten), Waite Park; Jill (Jeff) Drown, Clearwater; Alison (Luan) Tran, St. Joseph; James, St. Cloud; and Molly of Annandale; 26 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren; brothers Joe and Jim (Marilyn) Schumer; sisters, S. Mary Schumer, OSB; Barbara (Dave) Loehlein, Cinthia Anderson, Ruth (George) Botbyl, and Ramona (Al) Fisher; and many nieces and nephews who will hold her memory dear.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Lucy; son, Michael; son-in-law, Brian Lee; and brothers, John, Terry and Emmett.

The family thanks the staff at Serenity Place on 7th who provided Vouk with loving care and comfort throughout her time living there, especially in the last weeks and months. The family also thanks Moments Hospice for their care.

Eric Sylvester "Sly" Wochnick, 33
Sartell
Nov. 11, 1987-Dec. 29, 2020

Eric Sylvester "Sly" Wochnick, 33, of Sartell died unexpectedly on Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020 as a result of a pedestrian/motor vehicle accident. His funeral was held Jan. 6. The Rev. Ronald Weyrens officiated. Burial will be at a later date.

Wochnick was born on Nov. 11, 1987 in St. Cloud to Ronald and Susan (Oldakowski) Woch-



Wochnick

nick. He graduated from Sartell High School in 2006 and from the St. Cloud Technical College with a degree in architectural design. Wochnick was employed with Hydrostat in Rice for 10 years. He was a member of St. Francis Xavier.

Wochnick was passionate about life. He loved his family, friends, dogs and a good discussion/debate. He will be remembered for his adventurous nature, smile, infectious laughter, his heart-to-heart hugs and being a diehard Vikings fan "Skol!" His boisterous presence will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include the following: the love of his life, Keri Leyendecker; parents, Ron and Sue of Sartell; siblings, Jeremy,

JennyLee (Chris) Denbrook, Sara (Kevin) Weiss, Jazmin, Jordan and Ella Wochnick; numerous foster siblings; nieces and nephews, Kenzie and Maddy Ogg, Myles Wochnick, Carter, Jackson and Maxwell Nesse, EmberLynn Denbrook, Natalie and Matthew Weiss; beloved dogs, Mona and Harli; and many friends and relatives.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Celestine and Mary Wochnick and Sylvester and Ann Oldakowski; brother, Jessie Wochnick; three infant siblings; and beloved dog, Mel.

A heartfelt thank you to all of the first responders, friends and family for the overwhelming love and support.

Governor says restaurants, bars, theaters to open

by Heidi L. Everett
editor@thenewsleaders.com

Some sense of normalcy will return to Minnesota this month as elementary children prepare to go back in the classroom, sports activities resume and COVID restrictions are loosened in hospitality and fitness.

School children returned to class online this week, and elementary schools are prepared for in-person learning starting the week of Jan. 18.

Youth and adult organized sports also resumed practice this week with games resuming Jan. 14 with spectators.

On Jan. 6, Gov. Tim Walz announced additional measures that loosen restrictions on other important parts of daily life as COVID-19 numbers improve across Minnesota.

"The situation in Minnesota is undeniably better than it was last month," Walz said in a news release. "We have reasons to be optimistic, and Minnesotans' sacrifices and commitments to their communities helped change the pandemic's trajectory and saved lives. But we need to protect the progress we've made."

Walz's announcement comes as tens of thousands of Minnesotans have received their first dose of the vaccine, COVID-19 cases are down and hospital bed use is declining.

This latest loosening of re-

strictions starts Jan. 11 and allows:

- Indoor dining at bars and restaurants to open at 50 percent capacity with a maximum of 150 people. Reservations are required; and establishments must close dine-in service by 10 p.m.
- Indoor events and entertainment – like bowling alleys, movie theaters and museums – to open at 25 percent with no more than 150 people in each area of the venue. Face coverings are required, and food service is not available after 10 p.m.

Gyms, pools, outdoor events and entertainment and places of worship remain capped; however capacity was increased in the announcement.

As some restrictions loosen, Minnesota faces challenges to protect the recent progress made, including other states seeing the virus surge, public health experts warning of a potential post-holiday case surge and the emergence of a new, more contagious coronavirus variant spreading around the world.

Minnesotans should continue to take precautions to combat the spread of the virus in their community – wear a mask, practice social distancing and stay outside when possible.

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.

New Listing!

9.14 acres
of beautiful high land
in the Sartell-St. Stephen
School District.

Call Steve Hansen
Re/Max Results
320-241-0905



Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Newsstands

Coborn's - Riversdale
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
Walgreens

www.thenewsleaders.com

Published every other 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 L. 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.

Ski

from front page

other two parks are Mississippi River Park in St. Cloud and Warner Lake Park in Clearwater.

“Every single park does have its own personality and its own gem,” Weed said. “Minnesota has three different ecosystems. In our parks, you can see all of them.”

Weed likes to ski Warner because of the lake and prairie. “I’m also a little biased for Quarry Park,” she said. “I’m here every day. That’s where our office is. But Mississippi River Park is also beautiful with its tall cathedral pines that you get to ski through.”

Sonja Gidlow of Avon visits Kraemer Lake-Wildwood Park in St. Joseph an average of three times per week all year, she said. Gidlow hikes, cross country skis, snow-shoes and takes her dog, Luna, for walks.

“The trees here are absolutely beautiful,” Gidlow said. “There are woods, and then there are these woods. It’s so peaceful.”

With the holiday snow fall, park crews have been out packing the trails and grooming ski tracks since Dec. 30.

“We pack first, so we have a base layer that keeps the ski track further into the season,” Weed said. “We have (more than) 10 miles of trails, so it does take time.”

Ski tracks were yet to be made Jan. 5. Winter ski trail conditions

can be found on the park website. Residents also can sign up to receive an email update on ski trail conditions.

More than just skiing

The parks include multi-use trails in addition to ski trails. Trails are clearly marked with large, overhead signs at the trailhead and smaller signs along the trails.

Multi-use trails are perfect for walking, snowshoeing and biking (mountain bikes in summer and fat-tire bikes in winter).

Warner Lake Park has a new two-mile multi-use trail this year.

“If you are walking or snowshoeing, please use the multi-use trails,” Weed said. “Walking on ski trails wrecks the tracks.”

Know before you go

Parking and access to Mississippi River Park and Warner Lake Park are free.

Quarry Park requires a parking pass. Visitors can purchase a day pass for \$5 or an annual pass for \$20 at the park’s new pay station. Exact cash or cards are accepted.

Kraemer Lake-Wildwood Park requires a DNR ski pass for the ski trail. The pass can be purchased online at the Department of Natural Resources website.

Learn more about the Moonlight Ski Challenge and all Stearns County Parks on the parks website.

Want to try skiing?

Revolution Cycle & Ski as well



photo by Heidi L. Everett

The trees are a key feature of Kraemer Lake-Wildwood County Park that appeal to Sonja Gidlow.



contributed photo

Ski trails and multi-use trails are clearly marked at Stearns County Parks. Walking, snowshoeing and biking should only be done on multi-use trails.

as Fitzharris Ski & Sport are offering discounted rentals each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of January.

On Jan. 14, they are offering free ski rentals for the Challenge.

Jan. 14 is also Free Parking Day at Quarry Park.



photo by Heidi L. Everett

Sonja Gidlow and Luna rest a moment Dec. 31 at one of several Kraemer Lake overlooks at the county park in St. Joseph.

People

Two Sartell students have been named to Montana State University undergraduate honor rolls for fall semester 2020. **Margaret Kulus** was named to the president’s list for a perfect 4.0 grade-point average for the semester. **Nolan Miller** was named to the dean's list for earning a grade-point average of 3.5 or above for the semester.

The University of Wisconsin-Superior has named **Jordann Swingle** of Sartell to the dean's list for academic achievement during the fall 2020 semester. To be named to the dean's list, students must have completed 12 degree-seeking semester credits and achieved at least a 3.50 grade-point average.

Minnesota State Community and Technical College has named **Caleb Otteson**, of Sartell, to the president’s list for the 2020 fall semester. Students on the president's list completed a minimum of six college-level credits and 75 percent of the courses in which they enrolled for the semester and earned a grade-point average of 4.0.



Woodard

Valeriya Woodard, Sartell, is one of the two 2020-21 St. John’s Prep recipients of the Triple A (Academics, Arts and Athletics) Award by the Minnesota State High School League. The purpose of this program is to recognize and honor high school seniors who have excelled in the classroom, on the athletic field and in the fine arts. Woodard is the daughter of Zhanna and Brandyn. She has been a part of the concert band for four years, sung in concert choir and performed in the SJP production of “Les Misérables.” Woodard has also been a part of the pit orchestra

for several Prep Theatre productions and has earned the Pit Excellence Award. She is a five-year member of the Prep varsity soccer and basketball teams, serving as captain her junior and senior years. Woodard is also a member of the track team and plays travel softball. In addition, Woodard has been part of World Club, National Honor Society, First Club, Music Exploration and Campus Ministry.

Music is a top priority for her. “When it comes to creating art, my passion is making music,” she said. “Whether it's writing original songs, playing in band, or singing in choir, music allows me to express and feel emotions. With music, I am also able to connect with people and form unique bonds.”

Criteria for the Triple A Award include: exhibit citizenship and be a respected individual in their home communities and school, have participated in an MSHSL-sponsored athletic program and fine arts activity, maintain a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher, and comply with the MSHSL’s Student Code of Conduct.

VIRTUAL CONNECTIONS WITH LSS COMPANION SERVICES

Trusted Support

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

Volunteer Companion opportunities

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

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

www.lssmn.org





Wear a mask in public spaces.



Get tested if you have any symptoms.



Answer if your health department calls.



STAY SAFE MN

Food need continues at CLC Community Free Store

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

For many months, they have provided food, comfort items and – just as important – hope to COVID-positive households in quarantine, to families where a father had lost his job, to single mothers whose work hours have been cut back and to homeless families housed in motels.

“They” are the numerous donors and many volunteers of Sartell’s Celebration Lutheran Church Community Free Store. They’ve been helping area people in need since the COVID-19 pandemic began almost one year ago, and they are still working hard because the need for help continues.

Those ongoing needs are why Community Free Store volunteers are requesting more donations of food, comfort items and gift cards. For how to help, see the bottom part of this story.

Responses from grateful recipients of the help have been overwhelming, according to one of the founders/organizers, Jessica Lundsetter. She posted some of those responses on the CLC Free Store website:

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

“A neighbor reached out on behalf of their Somali neighbors. She said they were too scared to ask for help. We delivered some food and cleaning supplies. This is what their neigh-



contributed photo

These are food kits ready to be delivered by the volunteers of the Celebration Lutheran Church Community Free Store in Sartell. The group of volunteers has been helping people in need of food and comfort items since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Food needs continue.

bor messaged us after the delivery: ‘They cried over food, and we made rice together.’” – a Free Store volunteer.

“I’m overwhelmed! You made my day! A good that has come out of this is the group you’re in. Kind, generous people like you helping others in need that you don’t know, expecting nothing back but the person be OK and happy . . . God is surely watching over you and others and saying, ‘Well done.’ He is surely blessing you.” – a “Grandma” who received a mask, raspberries, bread, cat food, cleaning supplies and puzzles.

The CLC Community Free

Store takes its service motto from The Bible: “For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” – Matthew, 25:30.

How to help

On its website, the CLC Community Free Store lists suggestions on how to help. People can purchase food and/or comfort-items kits. The items can be placed in cardboard boxes or large paper bags and delivered to the lobby of Celebration Lutheran Church during open hours: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-noon Friday or during online worship service at 9 a.m. every Sunday.

The website can be accessed at: [www.celebrationlutheran-](http://www.celebrationlutheran-church.com)

church.com. Scroll down to CLC Community Free Store. Then click on “Click HERE for a full kit shopping lists.”

The site includes a list of 10 kits for which people can purchase the products and bring the products in with notes to personalize the kits. Donors are also given the option of including one or more gift cards.

Sample kits include:
Breakfast Kit for Kindness: 1 box of pancake mix, 1 bottle of syrup, 1 box of cereal, 1 box of oatmeal, 1 package or 2 cans of fruit cups, 1 jug of juice.
Pasta Meal Kit: 2 packages of noodles, 2 jars of pasta sauce, 2 pounds of hamburger.
Personal Care Kit for Comfort: toothbrushes, tube of

toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, 4 rolls toilet paper, 1 box of tissues, 1 hand sanitizer.

Baby Care Kit: Pack of diapers, pack of baby wipes.

Another way to help is to send a check donation to Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Rd. N., Sartell MN 53677. Please write “Free Store” on the check’s memo line.

Need help?

If you or someone you know is in need of food or everyday care items, contact the CLC Free Store. Call Jessica at 320-255-0488, ext. 109. Or email CLCstore@CelebrationLutheranChurch.com

All are welcome to receive items. No questions asked.



contributed photo

On Dec. 27, a snowmobile is pulled from the water where it fell through the ice on Little Birch Lake.

Break

from front page

house fall into the snow behind him, stopping his UTV. Stang looked back and saw the wheels of the fish house were submerged under water. He was able to disconnect the fish house from his UTV prior to it sinking farther into the water.

The report noted the fish house sank about three-fourths of the way into the water with the front tongue portion hanging up on the ice.

This is the fourth occurrence of breaking through thin ice on area lakes in two weeks.

On Dec. 26, the Stearns County Sheriff’s Office re-

ceived the report of a side-by-side ATV that had fallen through the ice on the north end of Two Rivers Lake in Holding Township.

On Dec. 27, a snowmobile was pulled from the water where it fell through the ice on Little Birch Lake.

On Dec. 31, an ATV broke through ice on Pearl Lake in Maine Prairie Township.

No injuries were reported. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources suggests the following ice thickness is generally safe: four inches for walking, five to seven inches for snowmobiles, more than eight inches for cars and more than 12 inches for trucks.

However, the DNR also warns that ice is never 100-percent safe.

Jon Lentz, patrol captain for the Stearns County Sheriff’s Office, said several factors can weaken ice, including waterfowl use, weather fluctuations, snow cover (which acts as an insulator), springs in the lake and water flow under the ice.

“As far as what causes the thin-ice area, I believe three of these recent cases were related to waterfowl, geese and ducks, being in the area,” Lentz said. “Their using an open-water area moves the water around enough that it will not freeze until they have gone. Then it takes a while for the thickness to get to a sufficient state to support a variety of traffic.”

Lentz also said when it gets warmer outside that has a negative impact on ice thickness and the creation of more ice.

Set Monthly Goals: Part One

Maintaining and improving your financial situation can require time and patience. However, by setting small goals throughout the year, hitting milestones can be more manageable.

Follow this monthly schedule from the Smart About Money Campaign, from the National Endowment for Financial Education.

JANUARY

Start the year by updating your budget to find ways for more money savings. Try not to make your spending limits too strict and hard to stick with. With your new plan clearly stated, you should also request a free copy of your credit report. Analyze it for false statements and contest them if you feel that they are inaccurate.

FEBRUARY

During the second month of the year, begin planning for tax time in April. Work with an accountant to find out if you will be receiving a refund or if you need to set aside extra cash to pay off a balance. If you owe more than you expected, you may consider adjusting the withholdings on your W-4 to lessen the amount owed at the end of the year.

MARCH

Use a 401(k) contribution calculator to review your retirement progress. Think of how much you will need to retire comfortably, and plan to increase or decrease your subsidies.

APRIL

If your summers include a

vacation, you should begin setting aside money to pay for the trip. Check your calendar to view any upcoming weddings, child-care commitments if the kids require out-of-school care and travel plans.

MAY

Financial experts suggest searching for new auto insur-

ance at least once a year. As your driving record changes, so can your premium. Ask for quotes from a few providers to find the best deal. May is also a great month to submit another credit report. Analyze the progress you have made since the beginning of the year and check to see if inaccuracies were resolved.

JUNE

While the summer sun is blazing, spend a weekend indoors to do a home inventory. Document the makes, models and serial numbers of your appliances and valuables. Try to take pictures of your equipment to check how they are holding up in the months to come.



© ADOBE STOCK



Together we are...
Strong.

Face every challenge with
determination and hard work.

Let's get together.
StearnsBank.com
(320) 253-6607



STEARNS
BANK N.A.

Follow us     |  



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



Member of American Association of Orthodontists

Alan F Schneider DDS
SchneiderOrtho.com
(320)251-0455 (855)251-0455

• Quality care for children and adults
• Free initial exams
• Appointments available Monday-Friday

325 19th St. S., #102 • Sartell (Near the Orthopedic Center)



Had surgery because of a work comp injury? You may be due cash benefits. Why not find out? Free consultation – no risk to you!

Drewski Law Office, PLLC
Workers' Compensation Attorney
Ronald Drewski • 320-281-5161
1669 4th Ave North, Suite 200 • Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Alloy
INSURANCE

Introducing Darren Brix

The Alloy team of licensed agents is excited to welcome Darren Brix! With 16 years of insurance experience, Darren is an expert at helping individuals, families, and business owners find just what they need. Contact our Sartell office to get in touch with Darren — he's ready to connect with you!



Auto | Home | Life | Business | Farm | Recreation
320.251.3333 | AlloyInsured.com

Canceled wedding provides unexpected gifts to others

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The pandemic put the kibosh on original wedding plans for Breana Buettner and Jordan Lenz, but it resulted in 300 meals for people in need.

The couple planned a big wedding for Dec. 12 at Blackberry Ridge Golf Course in Sartell. They paid a \$2,500 deposit for the event. In early November, they sent invitations to about 100 people and then finalized details of the ceremony and reception.

Then, in late November, state-wide restrictions were placed on large indoor gatherings, including weddings. Buettner and Lenz were obviously disappointed.

The couple pondered a later wedding date at Blackberry Ridge but decided they wanted to get married in December.

They learned the deposit was non-refundable, which upset them. Then they began to think of the less fortunate and came up with an idea. They asked Blackberry Ridge: Why not use the deposit to cook meals and give the meals to local agencies?



contributed photo

Jordan Lenz and Breana Buettner were married recently at Anton's Restaurant in Waite Park. The big wedding they'd planned was cancelled due to the pandemic, and their non-refundable venue deposit was used to make 300 meals for people in need. The Lenzes – he a chef, she a nurse – now live in St. Joseph.

Blackberry Ridge staff liked the idea, and a meal plan was adopted: Take-and-bake sausage and beef penne pasta with breadsticks.

The meals were delivered Dec. 17 and 18 to the Salvation Army, Place of Hope, Terebinth Refuge

and Anna Marie's Alliance. Lenz helped deliver the meals; Buettner had to work.

Though the couple was disappointed with the change in wedding plans, they tried to take it all in stride.

"We weren't the only couple that had to change plans because of the virus," he said.

Meanwhile, new wedding plans continued, and the couple had a small ceremony at Anton's Restaurant in Waite Park, where Lenz works as a chef.

Buettner was raised in Cold Spring, Lenz in Rice. Both are members of Snap Fitness in St. Joseph.

More than a year ago, Lenz's fitness trainer suggested he go on a blind date with another Snap Fitness member, Breana Buettner. Lenz agreed and asked Buettner to a movie.

Breana admits to falling asleep at the movie because she was tired from a long shift at work as a nurse for Rejuv Medical in Waite Park.

Their second meeting was a bowling date at Great River Bowl in Sartell.

In July 2020, the two of them were at Snap Fitness for a buddy training. Breana was doing jumping jacks, and Jordan was doing burpees. On his third series of burpees, Jordan popped the question, but she didn't hear him.

He then presented the ring, and that got her attention.

"Well, then I looked and saw the ring, and I quit doing jumping jacks," Breana recalled. "It was a complete surprise."

Now the couple has embarked on married life living in St. Joseph. They enjoy working out and cooking together.

As a chef, Jordan's culinary specialties at Anton's are steak and lobster.

Meals for people in need, they've both decided, was a good omen, a good way to start their married life.



Live Presentation • Q&A

YouTube LIVE parent information night
6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25
2021-22 School year • 3- and 4-year-olds
Students must be 3 or 4 by Sept. 1, 2021

Links and class offerings available after Jan. 11
on our website or pick-up at the Oak Ridge Early Learning Center office.
If you are unable to attend this event,
the YouTube recording will be posted to our website after Jan. 26

Sartell.k12.mn.us/orelc

ORELC • 1111 27th Street North Sartell, MN 56377



Bring us your auto loan!
Receive \$50 gift card to local restaurant.

Purposeful action within our community

**Auto loans
as low as
1.74 %* APR**

**We will beat your current
rate by at least .25%**

**We've given
\$5,000 in gift
cards so far!**

**Let's make it
\$10,000!**

Here's how it works:

- All auto loans from outside the credit union are eligible for the beat the rate promotion.
- All new or transferred consumer loans over \$2,500 qualify for the \$50 gift card.
- Loan must close on or before January 15, 2021

Apply for your loan now at: stcloudfcu.coop or call us at 320-252-2634

*Advertised rates are available to qualified borrowers on approved credit. APR is Annual Percentage Rate. The rates quoted are our best rates and may be higher based on your credit report. The term of your actual loan may vary. Rates are subject to change at anytime.



Revamp your Routine

When sedentary or unhealthy routines become habitual, your mental and physical health likely suffers the consequences.

Make a change to your life by committing to add more beneficial behaviors. The additions do not have to be drastic to make a significant impact on your health.

Consider adding some healthy habits to your life-style by promising to incorporate these positive actions to your list of New Year’s resolutions.

GET ACTIVE

If your idea of unwinding after a day’s work is shacking up on the couch and binging your favorite shows, you may be inviting dangerous health risks. A study by the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center reveals that binge-watching television can increase the risk of developing deep-vein thrombosis or a life-threatening blood clot.

Before settling in for the evening, try to add a moderate or intense workout into your routine. A study by the National Institutes of Health shows that mental health can be directly affected by regular exercise. Symptoms and disorders like anxiety, depression and a negative mood are



© ADOBE STOCK

proven to be reduced through physical activity while improving your self-esteem and cognitive functions.

According to the American Heart Association, adults should meet these guidelines regarding physical activity.

- At least 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous activity.
- Add moderate- to high-in-

tensity muscle-strengthening workouts at least twice per week.

- Spend less time sitting — even light activity can offset some risks involved with a sedentary lifestyle.

If you’re new to a physical routine, consider hiring a personal trainer to show you the ropes, or team up with a friend who will hold you accountable.

EAT FRESH

Cut out the junk food that makes its way into your diet. Instead of snacking on foods that are high in sodium or fat content, consider adding superfoods like broccoli, leafy greens and lean proteins. Get creative in the kitchen with new and exciting recipes to avoid falling into old bad eating habits. You can meal plan for the week and use a calo-

rie-tracking app to keep a log of your foods.

BE REALISTIC

Committing to a healthier lifestyle won’t happen overnight just because the calendar year changes. You will need strict determination to alter the behaviors that may already be developed. Remember to take it slow while your body learns its new healthy routine.

DIABETES PREVENTION

LIFESTYLE COACHING

PROGRAM



Group workshops will be offered on Wednesdays - Starting Jan. 27. Times vary between 6 a.m.-6 p.m.

Learn how to eat healthy and become active in this yearlong program. Meets weekly for 16 weeks and then monthly. Goal is to lose 5-7% of your weight with the support of a Lifestyle coach and your group. This program will be offered online through Zoom.

This program is offered through a collaboration of the Whitney Senior Center, Central MN Council on Aging and CSB/SJU Nursing program.

Register by calling: 320-650-3082

Email whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us or visit: jotform.com/whitneysc/DPPRegistration



PET CARE | HEALTHY EATING

Does your Pet Need a Diet?

We love our furry, feathered and scaly friends, and want only the best for them. But how do we know when they're getting maybe a little too much love? Keep reading to find out.

DOGS

Dogs are overweight when you can't feel their ribs without a thick layer of fat over them. Her chest should be wider than her abdomen, with a noticeable upward slant from chest to stomach (waist). You may also notice your dog panting when walking, moving around a little slower and napping a lot.

CATS

If you can run your hands over your feline friend and can't feel their ribs with a thin layer of fat over them, he might be overweight. Next, look at his abdomen for a swinging layer of low hanging fat. He should also have a distinct waist, just like a dog, and you should be able to feel his back bones as well.

BIRDS

It may be a little more difficult to tell if your bird buddy is a little tubby. First, run your hands over your bird. If you can feel her pectoral muscles, if the muscles are bulging out on either side of the keel

bone, she may be overweight. Also feel or look for a fatty layer that's yellow in color all over the bird. This is a condition called lipomatosis, and means the bird is overweight.

HAMSTERS

It can be difficult to know if these pudgy little guys are overweight. Some keys are to see if they feel heavier when you handle them and to look

for fat or loose skin anywhere else but their cheek pouches. But the real tell is when you weigh them. A fully grown golden hamster, for instance, should weigh between 5 and 7 ounces and dwarf hamsters between $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ounces. To weigh your hamster, put him in a small container with a couple of treats. Weigh the container, then subtract the weight of the empty contain-

er and treats from the total.

GUINEA PIGS

Like hamsters, the only real way to tell if a guinea pig is too heavy is to weigh them on a gram scale. Males can weigh from 900 to 1,200 grams and females 700 to 900 grams. A hefty guinea pig will also be slower and more lethargic than he used to be.

If you suspect your pet is

getting too heavy for their good health, consult with your veterinarian for an appropriate diet and weight-loss program. Too much weight can lead to chronic health conditions like lipomas and diabetes in many species. Remember that really loving your pets doesn't mean showering them in treats. It means giving them a long, happy life.



© ADOBE STOCK

Pine Cone Pet Hospital

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



Despite tragedies, Held and son keep plowing on

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

Now that he’s lost both of his legs, Tim Held of Sartell guffawed with a deadpan chuckle after he said, “Well, I won’t be running any more marathons.”

Tragedy has crept into Held’s life all too often in the last half decade, but he plows right ahead because he has no time for moping or self-pity. Many people know Held and his son, Tom, as members of “Plowing Vets.” It is an organization, based in St. Augusta, with about 10 members who volunteer to shovel and snow-blow driveways and sidewalks, free, for area military veterans. Held and his son love to do that work.

Four years ago, due to a nasty, persistent infection, Held’s right leg below the knee had to be amputated. Before the amputation, he endured 21 surgeries – efforts to nip the stubborn infection. The amputation didn’t stop him. He and son Tom, who was only 9 years old then, kept right on shoveling for veterans.

Then slightly more than a year ago, the same kind of bone-eating infection caused him to lose his left leg, from the knee down. For some reason, the nerve block he was given for the surgery did not work and later Held woke up and began to scream from unbearable pain.

“Oh yeah, it was about three hours of screaming,” he recalled. “I still have nightmares about it.”

As he recovered, Held was certain he would have to give up his snow-plowing/shoveling, which was a major disappointment to his son, now 13. Although Held is fitted with prostheses for both legs, the rig he used to transport his snow-blower was just too far off the ground to handle safely without him falling and injuring himself.

Then Held’s good neighbor, Steve Kavanagh, came to the rescue. He owned a low-to-the-ground hauling rig with a gently sloped long ramp on it. Kavanagh suggested Held should give it a try, to see if it would work so he could continue with plowing for veterans. That was during the second week in November when Held and his wife, Leah, were next door at the Kavanaghs’ house, helping them load up for their wintering trip to Arizona.

“Steve and his family lived next to us for about 20 years,” Held said. “A great guy! I always considered him a kind of father to me, and my kids think of him as a grandpa.”

A terrible tragedy struck on Nov. 23. That afternoon,

Held answered the phone. The call was from some law-enforcement official in Arizona seeking next-of-kin of the Kavanaghs. Held turned pale and almost dropped the phone, and when he heard the horrible news he began to shake as an instant, utter devastation overwhelmed him.

Steve and Carolynn Kavanagh had been killed in their car near Winslow, Arizona, along with one of the three dogs they had with them, a dog named Angel.

It took Held and his family a long time to recover from the loss of their good neighbors, and that dreadful news still saddens them deeply, leaves them speechless.

“We kind of think Steve had a medical crisis while driving because the car veered into the center division and hit a brick retaining wall,” said Held, his voice trailing off. “It was so . . . so terrible.”

Held talked and empathized with Steve Held’s three grown sons. Carolynn was their stepmother. One of the sons, Adam, is a deputy with the Douglas County Sheriff’s Department in Alexandria. He told Held he was aware of how he was told he could use his father’s hauling rig. Then he told Held he wants him to own the trailer because, he Adam, heartily endorses Held’s efforts for veterans.

Steve, 71, was a retired engineer for the Minnesota Transportation Department and also a veteran who did a tour of duty in Vietnam. Carolynn, 69, was a semi-retired x-ray technician for the St. Cloud Hospital. She also was an expert trainer of therapy dogs.

Held used to work for the Sartell Public Works Department and was also at one time a Sartell Police Reserve volunteer. Leah is an emergency dispatcher for the Stearns County Sheriff’s Department.

They have three children – Tom, 13; Ryan, 11; and Sophie, 10. Ryan also helps now and then with snow-plowing.

Tom was thrilled to learn the Kavanaghs’ trailer would make it possible for his father to continue plowing for veterans.

“We’re just happy to have that trailer,” he told the Sartell Newsleader. “In fact, I’m looking at it through the window right now. It’s even got a ‘Plowing Vets’ sticker on it. We’re ready to go.”

Some people have asked Held how, with two legs gone, he can have such a good attitude. He always joshes back with these words: “Well, I see you have both of your legs. How come you have such a bad attitude?”



contributed photo
The Held family of Sartell gathers for a photo on their deck. From left to right are sons Tom (tallest), Ryan, father Tim, mother Leah and daughter Sophie.



contributed photo
Well-loved by friends, family and neighbors, Steven and Carolynn Kavanagh died Nov. 23 in a car crash in Arizona. Their deaths brought horror and sadness to their good next-door neighbors, the Tim and Leah Held family of Sartell.

News
Tips?

Call the

Newsleader

at 363-7741

Opinion

Do something new this year

Heidi L. Everett

Editor



Most of us head into a new year with a grand design to become a better version of ourselves.

If you're like me, we're one week in and already blowing it.

A low-carb diet simply can't compete with dark chocolate surrounding melt-in-your-mouth marzipan. If I'm going to log 1,000 miles on my Runkeeper app this year, I'm operating at a deficit. And that swear jar? It will easily finance retirement.

Several years ago, I decided not to sweat it and aimed for being healthy and happy. I got rid of the bathroom scale and figured as long as I can button my jeans, I'm golden. If I eke out three miles through any movement – walk, jog or meander – it's still movement. And I'm always looking for less offensive ways to express myself (shut the front door!).

Instead, I resolve to learn new things every year. These things might not become my new hobby, but these things make me appreciate the skill and creativity that go into them.

For example, one year I learned how to crochet. I made some pretty sad looking potholders and a scarf before retiring my hook. Because of this learning adventure, I'm impressed by the prolific people who create these detailed textiles.

Other years I took tap dancing and hoop dancing classes through community ed. Grace is not my middle name, but the girlfriends who went on these adventures with me had some great laughs and memories.

I have a 10-minute comedy routine about marriage I wrote that may not ever make it to an open mic, but it was fun to write.

A few years ago, I was introduced to the ukulele and have actually fallen in love with it. We now own four of them and have purchased some for the kids as well. This little instrument is a campfire and road trip must-have.

The hubs and I are now negotiating our learning adventures when the masks come off and our world opens again. I have agreed to let him teach me fly fishing if he takes ballroom dance lessons with me. We'll both be wildly uncomfortable, but that is part of the fun.

If you've made the usual resolutions for 2021 about eating better, exercising more and finding balance, that's awesome. Keep at it.

Think about adding "do something new" to the list. Whether you do something once or discover a new hobby, the act of learning something new is its own success, and you're always better for trying.

Our view

Cultivate common ground, compromise

It's that time of year again.

Local school boards and city councils are convening for the first meeting of the year.

The 2021 Minnesota legislative session began Jan. 5. The 117th U.S. Congress is in full swing. And we should expect (no, pray for) a peaceful transfer of power in the White House on Jan. 20.

Elected officials are taking their oath of office. Leadership positions are being filled. Committee assignments are being made.

Some fresh perspectives have been brought in. Some institutional memory held

firm.

Now, it's time to get work done, and there is much work to do.

Businesses are hurting. Families are struggling. Healthcare providers are overwhelmed. Educators are navigating ever-changing conditions. Non-profits are coming up short on much-needed funds.

Everyone who is sworn into office was elected to represent some voice, but the reality is our communities are comprised of many voices with legitimate concerns and values. No single perspective or political party has all the answers all

the time. The key is listening, finding common ground and – when no common ground can be found – compromising so all sides give a little in good faith while making strides for their constituents.

Unfortunately, compromise has become a foul word and stalemate has become the norm.

But, all or nothing gets us nothing. The job is compromise. It has always been compromise, dating back to the founding of our country. It may not be easy, but doing nothing can no longer be the answer.

Please beware of thin ice, heed warnings

"Watch out! You're on thin ice!"

That stern advice to someone indulging in risky behavior is too often literally true – especially right here in the "Land of 10,000 Lakes."

I wince and cringe every time I see somebody on the ice of lakes and rivers, especially in early winter. As a reporter, I have covered all too many ice break-throughs (thankfully none of them fatal) during the past four decades, especially during my years as a reporter in the Alexandria area, where lakes abound.

One day, my editor there asked me to write a thin-ice warning story for the newspaper. I thought to myself, "Oh, not another ice-warning story. Why write them? Apparently, nobody reads them anyway. People just keep falling through." I did some research, interviewed the county sheriff, wrote the story.

Two days later, I got a call from a woman who wanted to thank me.

"For what?" I asked.

"For the story you wrote on the front page of the Echo Press."

She explained: She and two of her young kids were preparing to go for a lake-ice ride on an ATV. They bundled up. Walking through the kitchen, she saw a copy of the newspaper on the table and its front-page headline practically shouting, "Beware of thin ice!" She read the open-

Dennis Dalman

Reporter



ing paragraphs. Then she told her disappointed kids, sorry, no ride today. Later that same day, someone (a snowmobiler, if I recall correctly) had caved through the ice on that lake and was thankfully rescued. That's when the woman decided to give me a call.

Suddenly, I was glad I'd written it, happy to know at least one reader – that woman – had read and heeded a thin-ice story. It may well have saved their lives. I told her how I'd been reluctant to write it, figuring it would go unread.

"Well, I did read it," she said. "So keep writing them!"

As of Jan. 1, there were two ice-related fatalities in Minnesota. The latest, on Dec. 28, took the life of a 60-year-old Brooklyn Park woman, Rose Peterson, who was riding on an ATV with her husband and daughter on Kabekona Lake in Hubbard County. They survived. Sadly, she did not.

Most people do manage to survive ice break-throughs, but plunging into a cold lake (or river) is a frantic, terrifying ordeal. Some years ago, I wrote a story about a man who was rescued after caving through the ice on Little Rock Lake near Rice.

There have been two ice break-through fatalities on that

lake, near which I live – a car cave-through in 1980, a snowmobile plunge-through in 1993.

The man who nearly died described to me the flailing panic he'd lived through. After a long struggle and much yelling, he had lost consciousness and slipped way down into ice-cold water. Rescuers pulled him out; he recovered in the hospital.

During the interview, I could hear the chilling fear in his voice as he recalled the incident. He'd thought for sure he was a goner. Several times during our conversation, he emphasized how he'd learned his lesson and never again would he venture onto a lake in winter – not until he first knows for certain how thick and safe the ice is.

According to the DNR, nearly 300 ice-related fatalities have occurred since 1976 in the state's rivers and lakes. People should learn and share with others the following tips: Do not walk onto any body of water unless you know for sure there is at least four inches of new, clear ice on the surface. For ATVs, the thickness should be five inches; for cars and small pickups 8-12 inches and for medium-sized trucks 12-15 inches. Do not venture onto a lake unless you know its characteristics that cause thinner patches of ice. Wear life jackets.

Last but not least, like that wise woman near Alexandria, pay attention to thin-ice warnings in local media. Then *heed* those warnings.

Have an opinion? Share it: news@thenewsleaders.com

Letter to the editor		
Resolve to try plant-based alternatives		
Serge Nesbitt, Sartell		
With the “year of COVID” barely behind us, we look forward to the New Year and the customary resolutions: reduce		
personal weight, reduce time on social media and reduce consumption of animal foods.		
Yes, that.		
Nearly 40 percent of Americans are already eating more plant-based foods. Hundreds of school, college and corporate cafeterias have embraced Meatless Monday. Even fast-food		
chains like McDonald’s, Burger King, Carl’s Jr, Chipotle, Den-ny's, Dunkin’, Starbucks, Sub-way, Taco Bell and White Castle offer plant-based options.		
Dozens of start-ups, led by Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods, are producing plant-based meats, milks, cheeses and ice creams. Every ice cream		
manufacturer boasts nut-based flavors. Even meat industry giants Tyson Foods, Perdue, Hormel and Canada's Maple Leaf Foods have rolled out their own plant-based meat products.		
The reasons for the sky-rocketing popularity of plant-based meat and milk products are compelling: they are more		
convenient, healthier, more eco-friendly and more compas-sionate than their animal-based counterparts.		
The resolution to explore plant-based foods requires no sweat or deprivation – just some fun visits to our favorite supermarket and food websites.		
Blotter		
requested a Sartell officer’s as-sistance to contact a juvenile’s parents that reside in Sartell after stopping the juvenile for driving without a license. The Sartell of-ficer attempted to make contact with parents but no answer.		
and third-degree refusal and was released to a sober party.		
Jan. 1		
1 a.m. Agency assist. Le Sauk Township. Sartell Officers assist-ed Stearns County Deputies with a domestic assault call involving two parties. Upon arrival, offi-cers met with both parties who were already separated. Both in-dividuals had signs of injury and intoxication. In speaking with the individuals, it was deter-mined one initiated the alter-cation. The initiator was trans-ported by Mayo Ambulance to St. Cloud Hospital for medical assistance and later arrested for domestic assault.		
Dec. 28		
2:45 p.m. DWI. Amber Avenue. A driving complaint was called in, and officers located the ve-hicle in a parking lot. Officers observed the driver exit the ve-hicle with signs of impairment. Officers performed field sobriety and a preliminary breath test and arrested the individual for DWI. Once the individual was in custody, the individual refused a breath test. The individual was charged with fourth-degree DWI		
Dec. 26		
10:30 p.m. Welfare check. A complainant stated they were concerned for the well-being of a child and mother who was in-toxicated. Upon arrival, officers could hear the child crying but did not have access to enter. Offi-cers gained access and found the mother passed out in bed due to severe intoxication and the child in their crib. Mayo Ambulance was paged to assess the intoxi-cated individual and CHIPS pa-perwork was filed. The child was temporarily placed in the care of a competent individual. Treat-ment options were discussed.		
Dec. 27		
7:30 p.m. Agency assist. An of-ficer from a neighboring city		
Dec. 22		
8:30 a.m. Gun permits. Pinecone Road S. Police department per-sonnel ran background checks on individuals who applied for permits to purchase. Individuals who pass background checks will receive permits to purchase cards.		
Dec. 23		
4:15 p.m. Threat complaint. Roberts Road. An officer was dispatched to a hostile dispute at an apartment between two in-dividuals. The officer spoke with both parties about being mindful of their word choices and stature when discussing concerns. Both individuals stated they didn’t want further problems. No fur-ther action was needed.		
Jan. 3		
5:30 p.m. Road rage. First Street NE/Fifth Avenue E. Road rage. An officer was dispatched to an accident caused by road rage. Upon arrival the officer observed minimal damage to vehicles and no signs of injury. Both vehicles were drivable. The officer assist-ed in de-escalating the situation and exchanging driver informa-tion.		
Jan. 4		
5:40 p.m. Order For Protection violation. A complainant called regarding a family member’s ex-significant other violating an Order for Protection. The officer filed a report and contacted the state in which the ex-significant other resides.		

Launch from front page

should receive packages for five or six candidates that will include multi-page ap-plication forms, reference letters, graduate school tran-scripts, a cover letter and licensure documents. If the board approves the slate of candidates, one-hour inter-views by phone will follow.

The next week, two or three finalists will participate in all-day interviews. The focus groups will meet with the candidates for about an hour and then provide feedback to the board. In the evening, the candidates will interview with the board.

Board members and the consultants aim to pick a candidate right after the in-terviews and negotiate a con-tract ahead of a March 15 meeting.

Board members asked Ost-lund and Dragseth about the timeline and how many other districts are looking for lead-ers. Ostlund described the timeline as “tight” because the recruiting period is about a week shorter than normal. Right now there are no oth-er openings in the area and he said, perhaps because of Covid-19, administrators are “hunkering down” and not changing jobs.

Ostlund described Sar-

tell-St. Stephen as an “at-tractive” district and he’s not concerned about finding strong applicants.

Schwiebert has led the dis-trict for seven years. School Exec Connect also conducted the search that led to Schwie-bert’s hiring in 2014.

Board leaders chosen

Two newly elected mem-bers and one re-elected mem-ber joined the board for its first meeting of the year. New

members Matthew Moehr-le and Patricia Melling were elected in November along with longtime board member Jason Nies. Board leadership remains largely the same with Jeremy Snoberger continuing as chair, Nies as vice chair and Amanda Bryd as clerk. Moehrle was elected treasur-er. All officers were chosen without opposition.

The board’s next meeting is 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25, at the high school.

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)	tionwide FREE Pick Up! Call Now For a Free Quote! 888-366-5659. (MCN)	age, \$64.99/mo plus taxes for 12months. Premium Channels at No Charge for One Year! Anytime, anywhere. Some restrictions apply. W/ 24-mo. agmt (TV price higher in 2nd year.) Regional Sports Fee up to \$8.49/mo. is extra & applies. Call IVS 1-866-387-0621. (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)	Publishing for your FREE author submission kit. 1-888-981-5761. (MCN)
AUCTIONS ONLINE AUCTION. Hansen Auction Group 250+ Items. Dickery BBQ, Gas Station & Car Wash Commercial Appliances, Equipment, Furniture & More. Call 763-389-5700 for more info. Bidding ends Jan 11. Bid now at HAGAUCION.COM. (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)	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)	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)	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)
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)	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)	EMPLOYMENT / HELP WANTED REGISTERED NURSE (Fayette, IA). 2 yrs exp in psychiatric or mental health required. Excellent benefits/perks. Text ‘Send me an App’ to (563)380-9299 or Call (563)425-3291. www.inspiring-livesiowa.org. EOE. (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)	Two great new offers from AT&T Wireless! Ask how to get the new iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e ON US with AT&T’s Buy one, Give One offer. While supplies last! CALL 1-844-290-8275. (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)	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)	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)	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)	VACATION/TRAVEL DO WARM WINTERS SOUND GOOD?? Bring your RV down to the warm Rio Grande Valley. J-5 RV Park in Mission Tx. will welcome you with a country setting and friendly people. We have a special for 1st time visitors. We are following guidelines to keep everyone healthy and taking precautions to protect our community. hone us at 956-682-7495 or 515-418-3214. Email info@j5rvparktexas.com Tom and Donna Tuttle, Managers. (MCN)
CASH FOR CARS: We Buy Any Condition Vehicle, 2002 and Newer. Competitive Offer! Na-	AT&T TV – The Best of Live & On-Demand On All Your Favorite Screens. CHOICE Pack-			

Community Calendar

Monday, Jan. 11
Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

Tuesday, Jan. 12
Memory Writers group develops topics and turns in stories. 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.

Sartell Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., The Waters Church, 1227 Pine Cone Road., Sartell. 320-258.6061. info@sartellchamber.com.

Saturday, Jan. 16
Community Meal, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S., Sartell. Free.

Wednesday, Jan. 20
SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), 9 a.m., Sartell Police Department, 310 Second St. S., Sartell.

Advocates for Independence, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.

Thursday, Jan. 21
MOPS, Mothers of Preschoolers monthly social, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

Monday, Jan. 25
Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.



Guitar Classes for Kids Ages 5-12

New Sartell Location!

Riverside Plaza

320-237-1011

pmiguitar.com

Space is limited for Monday afternoon sessions!



2021 Sabres Winter Sports

Boys hockey

1/14	7:15 p.m.	Tech/Apollo	Away
1/16	3 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
1/19	7:15 p.m.	Alexandria	Home
1/21	7:15 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Home
1/26	7:15 p.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Away
1/28	7:15 p.m.	Little Falls	Home
2/4	7:15 p.m.	Willmar	Away
2/9	7:15 p.m.	Rocori-River Lakes	Home
2/11	7:15 p.m.	Bemidji	Away
2/16	7:15 p.m.	Brainerd	Home
2/22	7:15 p.m.	Tech/Apollo	Home
2/23	7:15 p.m.	Alexandria Area	Away
2/25	7:15 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Away
3/4	7:15 p.m.	Rocori-River Lakes	Away
3/8	7:15 p.m.	Willmar	Home
3/11	7:15 p.m.	St. Cloud Cathedral	Home
3/13	7:15 p.m.	Wadena-Deer Creek	Away

Girls basketball

1/14	7:15 p.m.	St. Cloud Apollo	Home
1/19	7:15 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Home
1/21	7:15 p.m.	Willmar	Away
1/26	7:15 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Away
1/29	7:15 p.m.	Brainerd	Home
2/2	7:15 p.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Away
2/4	7:15 p.m.	Bemidji	Home
2/8	7:15 p.m.	Alexandria	Away
2/12	7 p.m.	Chisago Lakes	Away
2/16	7:15 p.m.	Rocori	Home
2/18	7:15 p.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Home
2/23	7:15 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
2/26	7:15 p.m.	Rocori	Away
3/2	7:15 p.m.	St. Cloud Apollo	Away
3/4	7:15 p.m.	Willmar	Home
3/6	1 p.m.	Alexandria	Home
3/9	7:15 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Home
3/11	7:15 p.m.	Bemidji	Away

Gymnastics

1/21	6 p.m.	Sartell	Home
1/28	6 p.m.	Sartell	Home
2/2	6 p.m.	Melrose	Away
2/4	6 p.m.	Willmar	Away
2/11	6 p.m.	Sartell	Home
2/18	6 p.m.	Sartell	Home
2/25	6 p.m.	Big Lake	Away
3/4	6 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Away
3/9	6 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Away

Boys swimming and diving

1/14	6 p.m.	Sartell meet	Home
1/21	6 p.m.	St. Cloud Apollo	Away
1/26	6 p.m.	Sartell meet	Home
1/28	6 p.m.	Sartell meet	Home
2/4	6 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
2/9	6 p.m.	Sartell meet	Home
2/11	6 p.m.	Sartell meet	Home
2/16	6 p.m.	Bemidji	Home
2/18	6 p.m.	Alexandria	Away
2/23	6:45 p.m.	Monticello	Away
2/25	6 p.m.	Sartell meet	Home

Girls hockey

1/15	7:15 p.m.	Brainerd-Little Falls	Away
1/19	7:15 p.m.	Alexandria	Away
1/21	7:15 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Away
1/26	7:15 p.m.	North Wright County	Away
1/28	7:15 p.m.	Rocori-River Lakes	Away
2/2	7:15 p.m.	Bemidji	Away
2/5	7:15 p.m.	Willmar	Bernick's Arena
2/9	7:15 p.m.	St. Cloud Ice Breakers	Away
2/13	7 p.m.	Buffalo	Bernick's Arena
2/16	7:15 p.m.	Brainerd-Little Falls	Away
2/19	7:15 p.m.	Roseau	Bernick's Arena
2/25	7:15 p.m.	Alexandria	S.R. Arena East
3/4	7:15 p.m.	Rocori-River Lakes	S.R. Arena East
3/6	7:15 p.m.	Bemidji	Bernick's Arena
3/8	7:15 p.m.	Willmar	Away
3/10	7:15 p.m.	St. Cloud Ice Breakers	Bernick's Arena
3/13	1 p.m.	Saint Francis	Away
3/13	7:15 p.m.	Moorhead	Away

Boys basketball

1/14	7:15 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
1/19	7:15 p.m.	Bemidji	Away
1/22	7:15 p.m.	Alexandria	Home
1/25	7:15 p.m.	Willmar	Home
1/29	7 p.m.	Saint Michael-Albertville	Away
2/1	7:30 p.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Home
2/5	7:15 p.m.	Rocori	Home
2/9	7:30 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Home
2/11	7:15 p.m.	St. Cloud Apollo	Home
2/16	7:15 p.m.	Willmar	Away
2/19	7:15 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Away
2/23	7:15 p.m.	Brainerd	Home
2/25	7:15 p.m.	Bemidji	Home
3/1	7:15 p.m.	Fergus Falls	Away
3/4	7:30 p.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Away
3/6	1 p.m.	Alexandria	Away
3/8	7:30 p.m.	Rocori	Away
3/12	7:15 p.m.	St. Cloud Apollo	Away

Wrestling

1/8	4 p.m.	Paynseville	Away
1/14	5 p.m.	Little Falls	Away
1/19	5 p.m.	Alexandria	Away
1/21	5 p.m.	Brainerd	Away
1/26	5 p.m.	Bemidji	Away
1/28	5 p.m.	Sartell	Home
1/30	9 a.m.	Invitational, Cretin-Derham Hall	Away
2/2	6:15 p.m.	Mora	Home
2/4	5 p.m.	Buffalo	Away
2/6	11 a.m.	Cambridge-Isanti, Dassel-Cokato, Litchfield	Home
2/16	5 p.m.	Rocori	Away
2/26	5 p.m.	St. Cloud Tech	Away
3/4	5 p.m.	Sartell	Home
3/6	5 p.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Away

Dance

1/15	4:30 p.m.	Monticello	Away
1/18	6 p.m.	St. Cloud Cathedral	Away
1/30	9 a.m.	Conference Tournament	Home
2/20	9 a.m.	Sauk Rapids-Rice	Away

For updated schedule information on these events and more, visit sartell-sabres.com. This information current as of 1/5/2021. Schedule subject to change due to Covid-19.

30+ years experience!

Auto Body 2000, Inc.

Craig Zahara
611 19th Ave. NE, St Joseph
320-363-1116
www.ab2k.com

COBORN'S
Employee Owned • www.coborns.com

707 First Ave. N., Sartell
(320) 253-3400

1725 Pine Cone Road S., Sartell
(320) 258-4342

ST CLOUD ORTHOPEDICS

ORTHO DIRECT
320-257-STAT
StCloudOrthopedics.com/OrthoDirect
Sartell & South St. Cloud

Alloy INSURANCE
Coverage built just for you.

320-251-3333
AlloyInsured.com

SWIM SCHOOL
SWIM LESSONS
Age-specific lessons • Small class sizes
Dedicated adult instructors
Now accepting winter registrations!

Located at Pine Cone Marketplace
1733 Pine Cone Road S., Suite 100 • Sartell
320-230-6633 • info@jacksplashswimschool.com
www.jacksplashswimschool.com