

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, March 5, 2021
Volume 26, Issue 5
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Farmers' Market set March 6

The Sartell Farmers' Market is open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday March 6 inside Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Find many great items including the following: meat, eggs, canned goods, salsa, honey, barbecue sauce, caramel corn, baked goods and jewelry. If you have interest in joining the market this upcoming season, stop in and speak to Al for more information.

Registration opens for fastpitch softball

The Sartell Swarm 2021 summer softball season registration is open March 10-26 (10U-18U) and May 15 (6U-8U). Fastpitch softball teams for athletes pre-K through 18 will be formed by grade for school year 2020-2021. For more information or to register, visit sartellfastpitch.com or contact Daryl Scholz at daryl@sartellfastpitch.com.

Sartell Summer Baseball registration now open

The 2021 Summer Sartell Baseball registration is open. Please go to <http://Sartell-Baseball.com> to register. Find more information by following us on Facebook.

Sew masks

Thank you to everyone who continues to sew masks to help keep our community safe! More cloth masks for youth and adult members are still needed. 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 Kripner, director of volunteer engagement, at 320-223-7991.

Habitat for Humanity seeks cleaning help

Habitat for Humanity works in our community by building and improving homes in partnership with individuals and families in need of a decent and affordable place to live. They are seeking help with cleaning homes before the families move in mid-March. Contact Jessica, Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity, at jdahl@cmhfh.org.

School board picks three finalists to lead district

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

Three finalists will face final interviews next week for Sartell-St. Stephen superintendent.

After initial one-hour interviews with six candidates, the board at a March 3 meeting selected three applicants to move forward in the superintendent search.

The board will interview Greg Johnson, superintendent of the Albany school district since 2014; Kay Nelson, assistant superintendent of the Sartell-St. Stephen school district since 2012; and Jeff Ridle-

Finalists • page 2



photo by Mike Knaak

Claire Holstrom hands out a book and a coloring sheet during the I Love to Read Giveaway Feb. 23 at Blue Line Sports Bar & Grill. The event was sponsored by Sartell-St. Stephen Education Foundation. Three \$25 Blue Line gift certificates were stuffed in random books. Claire is a fourth-grader at Riverview Intermediate School. She was helping her mother, foundation board member Amanda Holmstrom. Board member Hilary Burns (right) waits with more books.

Math League team preps for state tournament

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

"It's not like baseball practice," a team member piped up when a visitor arrived at the Math League team's practice recently.

So true. With calculators and papers spread in front of them, team members worked quietly alone or in small groups solving algebra, geometry and calculus problems.

Sartell High School's Math League team will compete in the state tournament via Zoom Monday, March 15. In the tournament, 38 teams will tackle a

series of problems of varying difficulty.

On a practice sheet, try this easy question "intended to be a quickie:" Calculate the surface area of a cylinder the height of 11 and a radius of 5.

If you nailed that one, try this: "A triangular sail for a ship needs to be reduced in area by 36 percent. By what percentage should the height and the base of sail be reduced if the sail needs to maintain its original proportion?" The instructions say the question should be answered "very quickly."

Math competition "trains the mind in all sorts of ways," team

member David Zhang said. "It combines English and logic that can be applied to everything."

Alice Colatrella, who has been on the team for four years, said membership helps with school math classes, but she also likes connecting with people on the team. "You don't have to be a genius to do it," Colatrella said.

When the team gets a set of questions, individual members know which ones they want to work on and usually split them up. When one person solves the problem, another team member checks the work.

Zhang also will compete in

an individual tournament for the top 50 students in the state. He is ranked No. 15 and one of a few non-metro students in the contest. Working alone, he said, there's a bigger chance of making a mistake because there's nobody to check the work.

In addition to working practice problems, the two advised eating well and getting enough sleep before the tournament. But Colatrella said "we have cookies."

She's thinking of a career in chemical engineering, and Zhang is considering math or

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Free frozen meals available for senior citizens

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Those 60 and older in the Sartell area are welcome to pick up free frozen meals at two places in the city – enough meals to last seniors one month.

This is an ongoing program, set for every month.

The meals will be distributed at the following times and places: Celebration Lutheran Church, 1500 Pinecone Road N., from 8-10:30 a.m. Monday, March 22. Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. W., from 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesday, March 31.

To register for the meals, call coordinator Amanda Clemens at 320-229-4575.

The frozen-meals distribution program is made possible by Catholic Charities. It is partially funded via a contract with the Central Minnesota Council on Aging as part of the National Older Americans Act.

Meals are prepared at Catholic Charities dining sites throughout central Minnesota and then frozen in containers that can be placed in microwaves or ovens. Each meal contains about one-third of a recommended daily allowance of nutrition for seniors.

The meals are salt-free.

The virus pandemic has had a profound effect on senior citizens, many of whom are homebound, alone and without their own transportation, according to Ruth Hunstiger, director of community services for Catholic Charities.

In November 2020, the senior dining program was honored with the Circle of Excellence Award from the Minnesota Department of Human Services. The award citation noted the dining program offered low-cost or free meals to older adults at 40 sites in a nine-county area, including Stearns and Benton.

By using frozen meals and partnering with food shelves, the senior dining program was able to prepare and serve or deliver 91,000 meals per month in 2020. That was an increase of 26,000 meals per month from 2019.

When the virus crisis struck, congregate dining sites were closed, causing worry and concern among senior citizens who desperately needed food but sometimes had no way to get it.

During the pandemic, many area businesses had extra food due to lack of customers, and some of them donated that food and even helped deliver meals.



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Finalists

from front page

hoover, assistant superintendent of the Mounds View school district since 2017.

The three will visit the district next week for day-long interviews on Monday, March, 8, Tuesday, March 9, and Wednesday, March 10. After the March 10 session, the board is expected to select one candidate for an offer.

The board hopes to have the

new superintendent chosen by mid March. Current Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert announced in December that he plans to retire June 30 after serving the district for seven years.

Johnson earned his Superintendent Certification from St. Mary's University and his Sixth Year Certification in education administration from Minnesota State University, Moorhead. Earlier, he earned a master's degree in educational administration and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Minnesota State

University, Moorhead. Johnson was a principal in Sartell-St. Stephen, St. Cloud and Swanville schools. He started his career as an elementary teacher in Moorhead.

Nelson earned her Superintendent Certification from St. Mary's University. She received a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from St. Cloud State University and a bachelor's degree in education from Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall. Nelson's first position in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district was a music teacher before becoming the district's assessment specialist. She taught music in Liverpool, New York, and the Rocori school district. She started her career as a music teacher in Upsala.

Ridlehoover earned a doctorate from Hamline University. He earned his master's degree in education from the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Minnesota. In addition to serving as an assistant superintendent, Ridlehoover is also an adjunct professor at Hamline University. He has held principal positions in Mounds View, Wayzata and Anoka-Hennepin school

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districts. Earlier he taught chemistry at Champlin Park High School. He started his career as a science teacher in Lakeville.

During the daylong visits next week, each candidate will meet with students, staff and community members. At the end of each day, there will be a community forum at 5 p.m. at the Sartell High School Performing Arts Center followed by a 6:15 p.m. social engagement session and a 7:15 p.m. board interview in Watab 101-102 in the high school.

The board selected the slate of six candidates from a pool of 18 applicants during a special meeting March 1.

The original pool included 18 applicants compiled by search consultants School Exec Connect. Of the 18, 13 were from Minnesota, and the group included 14 men and four women.

“For the first time in 50 to 60 searches, every person who started an application finished it,” said Bob Ostlund of the search firm, indicating “they are serious about Sartell. It’s an excellent field.”

School Exec Connect vetted the candidates against a profile developed during interviews and focus groups throughout the district during January and by calling references.

Ostlund said applicants for open positions are down right now and other searches School Exec Connect conducted this year produced 12 to 13 applicants.

“It’s an interesting time right now,” Ostlund said. “We’ve found the number of applicants is down from what we typically receive.” He suspects the response is pandemic-related and that the same thing happened during the Great Recession.



photo by Mike Knaak

Math League team members discuss a problem during practice Feb. 16 at Sartell High School. Team members (from left) are David Zhang, Alice Colatrella, Peter Espelien and Jared Schlagheck.

Math

from front page

computer science.

Zhang, who has been in Math League since seventh grade, emphasized the value of participation.

“Math can be done anywhere,” he said. “Your brain is always thinking. By being in Math League you are training your brain to adapt to all sorts of situations.”

Zhang is the son of Saihua Yu and Shiju Zhang. Colatrella, who earned a perfect ACT score earlier this year, is the daughter of Nicholas Colatrella and Stacy Hinkemeyer-Colatrella.

The team’s advisor is calculus teacher Sarah Hensel.

“David has been one of the top students in the state for several years, and he and Alice have been the leaders of our team, getting things organized for practices, mentoring younger students and performance at the meets,” Hensel said.

Obituaries

Marilyn "Lynn" P. Borgert, 86
Aug. 12, 1934-May 22, 2020
Eugene "Gene" J. Borgert, 89
July 6, 1931-March 1, 2021
Sartell

The funeral for both Eugene "Gene" J. Borgert, 89, who died March 1 at Harmony River Living Center in Hutchinson, and for Marilyn "Lynn" P. Borgert, 86 who died May 22, 2020 at St. Cloud Hospital, will be held March 5 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell. The Rev. Ronald Weyrens will officiate. Gene will join his beloved wife at St. Francis Xavier Parish Cemetery in Sartell. Friends and relatives may call from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, March 4, 2021 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell and also one hour prior to services on Friday morning at the church.

Eugene Joseph Borgert was born July 6, 1931 in St. Cloud to Lawrence and Louise (Battis) Borgert. He served his country in the U.S. Navy from January of 1951-October of 1954 on the USS Newport News. Gene worked in general labor for Borgert Concrete and he also worked at Ferche Millwork for a number of years. After his retirement, he worked at Auto Value. He was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and the past district governor for Lions International, where he enjoyed traveling to many Lions events and participating in Leader Dog and the Eye Bank. Gene liked fishing, vacationing at the lake, going for a swim in his pool and woodworking in his shop. He made many beautiful wooden bowls and he like helping his wife, Lynn, in her ceramics shop.

Marilyn "Lynn" P. Borgert was born on Aug. 12, 1934 in St. Cloud to Alvin and Florence (Bastien) Woods. Lynn was very artistic, owning and operating Ceramic Pines ceramic shop with her husband for 20 years. She retired as a receptionist at the North Information Desk at the St. Cloud Hospital after 25 years. Lynn was very active in the St. Francis Xavier Church and was a member of the Christian Mothers. She was also very active in the Riverside Lions Club in Sauk Rapids for many years.



Marilyn & Eugene Borgert

Lynn enjoyed sewing, painting, decorating for Christmas, traveling, gardening, cooking and baking. The couple was married on Sept. 17, 1955 at St. Mary's Cathedral Church in St. Cloud. They lived all of their lives in St. Cloud and Sartell. Gene and Lynn were very proud of their family. They loved getting together with them at holidays, family reunions and at the cabin on Pelican Lake.

Survivors include their children, Scott (Susan Whalen) of Memphis, Tennessee, Denise (Daniel) Stang of Sartell, Pamela (Jim) McMahon of St. Cloud and Timothy of Sartell; siblings of Lynn, Marjorie Bystedt, Judy (Donald) Byram, Suzanne (David) Fritz, Michael (Jean) Woods, Sharon (Robert) Bemboom, Patrick Woods, Nancy (Edward) Johnson, Laurie (Maury) Bloom and Malia (Grant) Golberg; brother-in-law Michael O'Connor; sister-in-law Judy Woods; grandchildren, Kristopher, Joshua, Jason, Mathew, Amber, Sarah, Dina, James, Sean, Kelsey, Willow, Summer, Cody and Autumn; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Lynn was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Anita O'Connor; and brother, John Woods. Gene was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Lynn on May 22, 2020; brothers and sisters, Kenneth, Donna Mae Raab, Richard, Kathleen Thommes, Mary Louise Clark, Loren and Renee Stang.

Arrangements are entrusted to Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Sauk Rapids. Obituary, guest book and video tribute available online at williamsdingmann.com.

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Dated: Jan. 13, 2021

Filed: Jan. 13, 2021

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TAX GUIDE 2021 | FILE SMART

Avoid a Tax Audit

Becoming the focus of an IRS tax audit can lead to expensive penalties and sometimes legal problems. The easiest way to ensure you're safe from an investigation is to file your taxes correctly. Numerous things on your return can raise red flags within the bureau's system.

If you are faced with an audit, it's crucial to avoid scams by understanding how you will be contacted. The Internal Revenue Service says they will never initiate the process through text message or email. However, an agent may reach out through the following avenues:

- Phone call. You may receive a phone call after a letter has been sent. The conversation will usually notify you of the incoming document and set an appointment for an in-person meeting.
 - Unannounced visits. In some cases, an agent will arrive at your property to discuss tax delinquency without notice.
- When you are approached by someone claiming to be with the IRS, you must ask for credentials. The Official Guide to Government Information



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and Services states that imposter scams are commonly conducted to cheat people out of false tax payments. Protect yourself and limit your risks of an audit by understanding how red flags are raised.

UNREPORTED INCOME
Taxpayers who work a single job can easily avoid unreported income because an employer provides their W-2.

However, those employed as contractors or hold multiple positions may be required to turn in numerous documents. As an independent worker, you should receive a 1099 form that shows the earned income through the position. An employer will turn in the same information to the IRS, so the totals must match to avoid receiving a bill for the difference. Keep track of your salary in case the company

doesn't send a 1099 document.

FALSE BUSINESS EXPENSES
Claiming business deductions is best left to a professional tax expert. For instance, if you claim expenses like unreimbursed employee travel costs and a business travel deduction, the IRS will likely flag your return and contact you. If the compensations you assert as part of your company

are considered a hobby rather than an actual expense, they may ask some questions.

DEPENDENCY ISSUES
Another way to wind up under scrutiny for your tax return is to claim a dependent who is being claimed on someone else's return. It's also an issue if you have an adult child on your return who files as an independent on their own taxes.

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Unemployment Tax

The 2020 pandemic left millions of Americans unable to work as businesses around the country paused their operations or permanently closed.

Fortunately, the government assisted those without a job with the CARES Act’s Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program. However, if you accepted the benefits and live in a state that collects income tax, the additional funds may lead to an increased liability when taxes are due.

Check out these statistics from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics to discover how Americans were affected by the coronavirus pandemic-related closures.

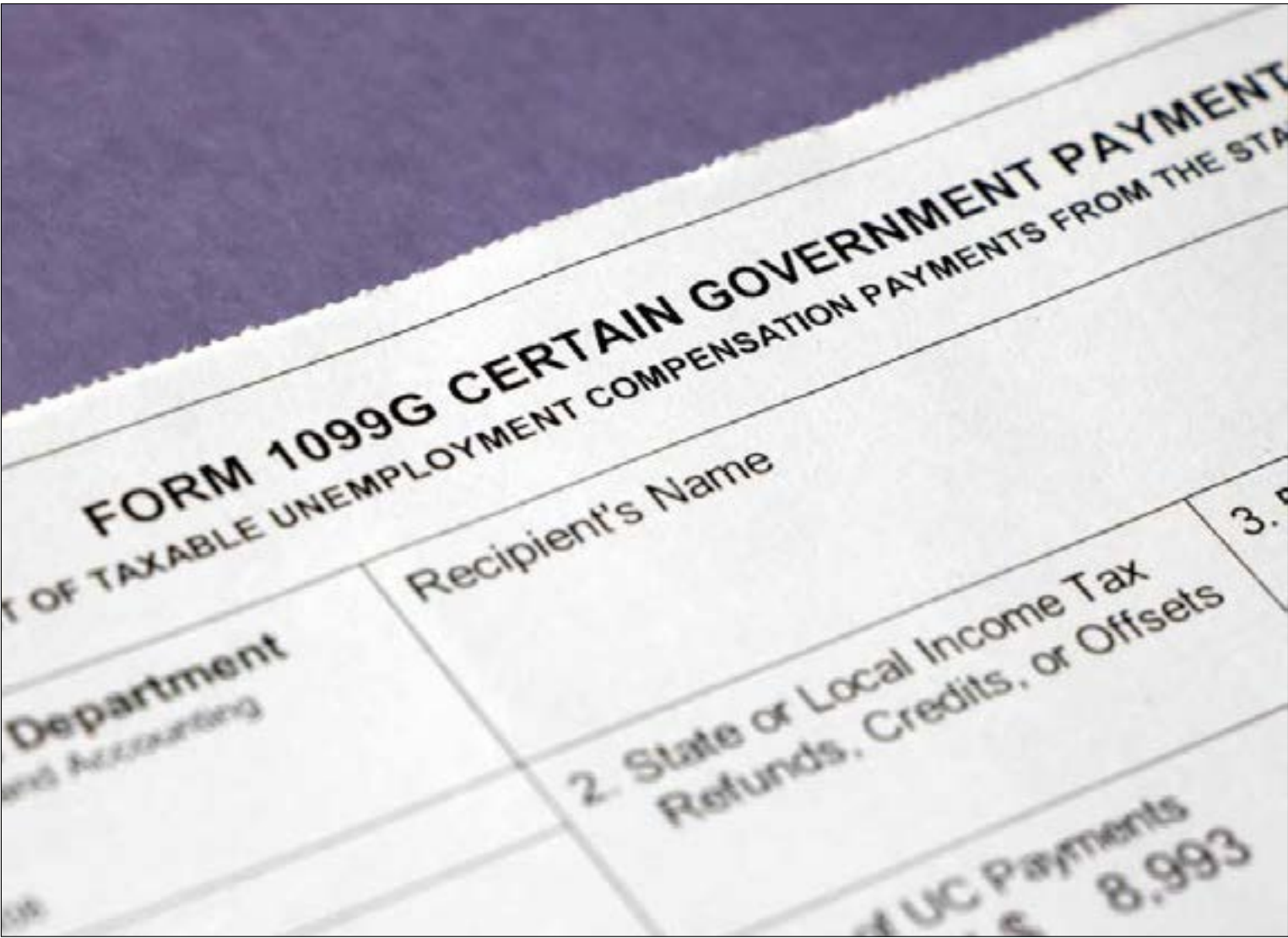
- In June, 40 million people reported that they had been unable to work at some point during the month.

- People who typically worked part-time were twice as likely as full-time employees to be without work.

- Only 15% of those who couldn’t work received some payment from their employer.

- June showed 16% of employed people could not work for at least four weeks because their employer closed or lost business.

Since state laws vary by location, your financial



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responsibility may be difficult to track if you received unemployment benefits. Follow the advice offered by the National Foundation for Credit Counseling to avoid problems during the tax season.

WHY IS UNEMPLOYMENT TAXED?

Because the money you received while unemployed is

considered income, it is usually subject to the same tax requirements as regular wages. However, the revenue differs from a salary by avoiding payroll taxes, which typically pay towards Social Security and Medicare. Your state’s laws will determine whether you are required to pay taxes on your unemployment benefits. For instance,

local governments that do not charge residents an income tax can avoid the fees.

HOW TO PAY

The easiest way to avoid a surprise expenditure at tax time is to have your state’s unemployment office withhold your check’s expense. This should have been discussed when you first applied

for the benefits. Another option is to pay in estimated quarterly payments. It’s an excellent strategy to avoid penalties for failing to pay enough during the year. You may also wait until the fees are due and cover them in full. The NFCC suggests this option if you only expect to receive the benefits for a short period.

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DENTAL CARE | FAMILY

Children's Dental Awareness

Efficient oral care begins in infancy and carries on into the toddler years to establish good habits.

As a parent, you should remain diligent in promoting proper brushing techniques, correcting missteps and replacing a child's toothbrush as the bristles become damaged. February is National Children's Dental Awareness Month (NCDHM). Take advantage of the movement by committing to practicing better oral management to enhance your children's overall health.

The history of NCDHM dates to 1941, where it began as a one-day event in Cleveland, Ohio. The American Dental Association (ADA) first officially recognized the program in 1949 and ultimately changed it to a week-long celebration in 1955. It was 1981 when the observance shifted into a month-long celebration, as it remains today.

Check your community for participating dentist offices that may offer free screenings, tours and presentations.

Encourage your children to get excited about classroom projects like coloring contests, essay writing and health fairs.

Learn how to get kids on board with better oral health with these tips from the ADA.

MAKE IT FUN

Young children may need encouragement to practice the

chore of brushing teeth. Incorporate these fun ideas into their routine.

- Allow them to choose their toothbrush and favorite flavor of toothpaste.
- Read books or watch videos on the correct techniques.
- Let them set a two-minute timer to ensure their brushing

is sufficient.

- Reward children for excellent oral care with healthy snacks or small treats such as stickers.

If your child is hesitant or afraid of visiting their dentist, make sure to plan a fun trip after the appointment to make it less intimidating.

IMPROVE THEIR DIET

If you allowed a child to plan their meals, you would expect plenty of candy, ice cream and juices. As mom and dad, it's your responsibility to ensure they consume balanced meals and save the sweet stuff as good behavior rewards, followed by thorough

brushing.

Try to avoid allowing them drinks like soda, teas and juices as they are typically loaded with sugar. However, when they inevitably do get their favorite sugary beverage, include a glass of water afterward to help wash it away from their teeth.



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Pediatric Dentist

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Ashley Turritin, D.D.S.
Pediatric Dentist

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

The Truth about Sugar

According to the Addiction Center, nearly 75% of Americans overeat sugar and can be classified as having an addiction.

Too much of the sweet stuff has been linked to obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Sugar can also dramatically impact your oral health through a compound of actions.

When you consume sugary drinks or foods, plaque bacteria use the sweetener to produce acid that attacks the enamel, according to the American Dental Association (ADA). Once this protective tooth covering is compromised or cracked, a trip to the dentist is the most efficient solution. If you must drink soft drinks throughout the day, the ADA recommends drinking a cup of water along with it.

Take control of your oral health by adding tooth-friendly options into your diet and ditching the sugary contents.



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DRINK, DON'T SIP

You may think that sipping a drink helps your teeth by adjusting for the incoming sugar. However, slowly consuming a beverage will allow the bacteria to eat the sweetener, promoting erosion and creating cavities. Do your best to finish the drinks in one sitting rather than sipping on it over time.

EATING TIPS

If you enjoy a healthy relationship with the occasional soft drink, learn how to consume it while preventing its destructive tendencies. When you do ingest sugary beverages or foods, make sure to do so with a balanced meal.

As you eat, the mouth pro-

duces saliva, which reduces the effects of acid production. Saliva is also excellent for dislodging food particles that may otherwise remain stuck in your mouth.

Limiting snacks between meals is another good habit to begin. When deciding what to eat, consider something



nutritious and chew sugarless gum afterward to promote saliva buildup.

FOODS AND BEVERAGES TO INCLUDE

When you're adjusting your diet to achieve a cleaner mouth, make sure to add plenty of healthy fruits and


vegetables.


You can also add quality sources of protein like lean beef, fish or poultry. Vegetarians can get nutrients from foods like dry beans, peas and legumes. Filling up with healthy foods can help you feel fuller longer and avoid snacking.



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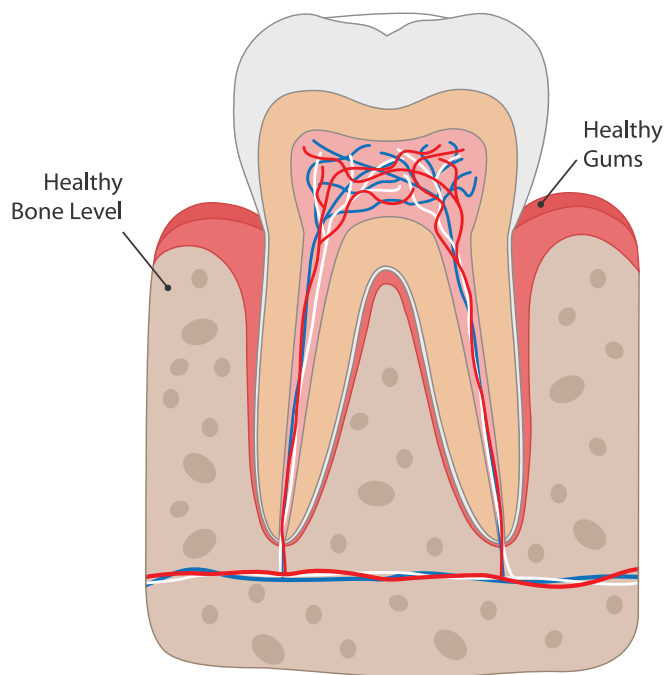
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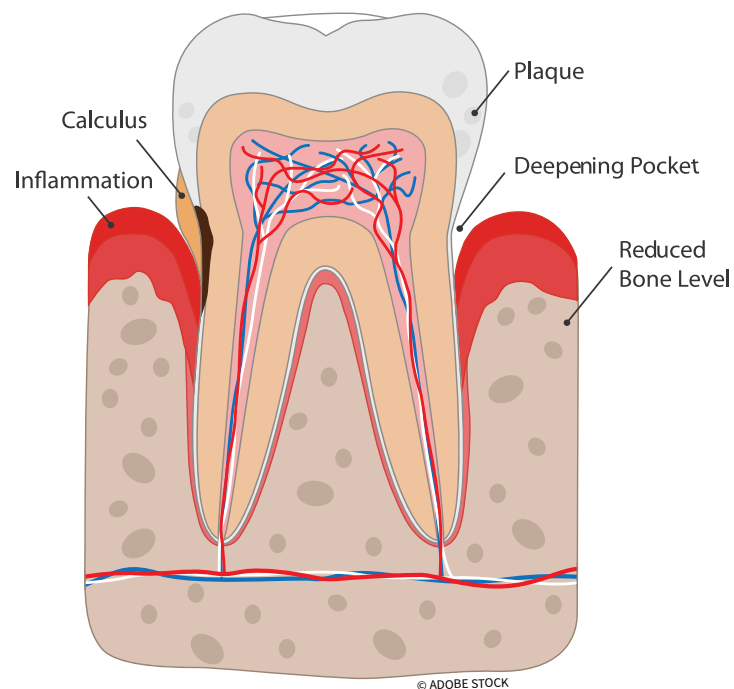
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Healthy tooth



Periodontitis



Oral Health Diseases

Oral health refers to the condition of teeth, gums and the facial system that helps us smile, speak and chew.

While one concern is an unhealthy smile, illnesses like diabetes and heart disease are often associated with poor dental care. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that over 40% of adults have felt pain in their mouth within the last year and will have had at least one cavity by age 34.

Check out some other statistics from the CDC that showcase how poor hygiene affects both children and adults.

- The nation spends more than \$124 billion on costs related to dental care each year;

- On average, over 34 million school hours and over \$45 billion in productivity are lost annually due to dental emergencies;

- Public health strategies include spending to include community water fluoridation and school sealant programs to help enhance oral care.

Here are some common diseases caused by inadequate oral hygiene, as

reported by the CDC.

CAVITIES

As enamel is compromised by acids and plaques that collect on teeth, it begins breaking down and results in a cavity. Eating and drinking foods high in carbohydrates causes bacteria to promote acid development that tears away the protective layer.

Cavities can be largely preventable if treated in a timely fashion. About one-fourth of young children, half of adolescents and more than 90% of adults experience tooth decay in their lifetime. If left untreated, a cavity can lead to an abscess in the gums, which can

sometimes spread to other parts of the body.

PERIODONTAL DISEASE

This common gum disease is mainly caused by infections and inflammation of the gums and bones that support the teeth. Numerous conditions heighten one's risk for developing the disease, like diabetes, weak immune system and genetics. Once teeth lose their integrity from surrounding bones, they can become loose or require extraction.

The symptoms you can expect from this illness include bad breath, swollen or receding gums or painful chewing.



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All About Pet Adoption

You’ve no doubt heard the slogan “adopt, don’t shop.” If you’re considering a new pet, take a look at adopting.

Many shelters offer more than just dogs and cats. You can also find small animals like ferrets, hamsters and rabbits in a shelter, as well as larger livestock like pigs, goats and horses. Here’s all you need to know about adopting a pet.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Before heading to the shelter, carefully research the pets you’re considering adopting. Look at lifespan — dogs can live 10-15 years, cats up to 20 and horses up to 40. Are you and your family willing to make a commitment for that long? Also consider your personality and lifestyle. Are you gone a lot? Maybe a dog isn’t right for you. Also look into breeds and space restrictions. If you have any questions, ask shelter staff. Most of them are adept at matching animals with the perfect family.

MAKE A PLAN

When you’re adding an animal to your family, you need to have plans for health care, boarding when you travel or go on vacation, and for training. You also need to plan for extra costs, like fees for adoption, food, spaying and neutering, licensing according to local regulations, collars and

leashes, toys, permanent identification such as microchips, crafts and carriers, and a bed. You should also plan for unexpected expenses like accidents, illnesses and any specialized training the pet may need.

VISIT A SHELTER

Make a visit to one or more local animal shelters. If you don’t see a pet for you right away, consider volunteering so that you can learn about the animals they have. You can also foster, which means you take

care of an animal in your home. This will give you a taste of what life with an animal is like. You can even foster-to-adopt the pet you’re considering so you can see how that particular animal will fit in with your family.

AFTER YOU’VE ADOPTED

Once you’ve got your new friend home, visit the local pet store and stock up on things you’ll need to give it a safe, happy life. The shelter can give you a checklist, or the experts at your pet store can help.



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Pine Cone Pet Hospital

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



Opinion

Our view

Get out. Be grateful. Enjoy.

We are at the one-year anniversary of our first COVID-19 restrictions. Last March, schools went on extended spring break to rapidly adapt to distance learning for what we hoped was short term. Shelter-in-place orders were given. Nearly everything shut down to slow the spread of the virus that has killed more than 2.5 million worldwide, more than 500,000 in the United States, and more than 6,500 in Minnesota since then. In fact, many of us probably know at least one person who is no longer in our lives as a result of the virus.

One year later, our situation looks better.

We have three vaccines being administered throughout the country. Most students return to in-person learning March 10. Businesses are operating at limited capacity. And we are seeing a marked decrease of deaths in Minnesota since December when they were at an all-time high.

During the next few weeks, we'll see decisions made about perennial favorites that have made summer in Minnesota summer for more than 100 years. The fairs, the festivals, the fireworks, the parades. All of these were boarded up in 2020.

At the time of this writing, Sartell Summer Fest 2021 is a go. Benton County Fair is on. The Minnesota State Fair countdown clock is already ticking away on its website. We'll likely have a rapid succession of other announcements soon for Jo-eTown Rocks and more.

In addition, we make that spring ahead into Daylight Savings Time March 14, so we can enjoy more evening hours outside.

This spring brings the promise of family, friends, food and fun. A stark contrast from the past year.

As we cautiously make the return to normal, events might still look a little different. Precautionary measures will continue to be followed until greater numbers of our tribe are vaccinated. But we are a long way from where we were last year.

Get out. Be grateful. Enjoy.

Letters policy

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

Smells can instantly unlock the past

Nothing can unlock the past with such vivid immediacy as aromas, scents, smells. They transport quicker than a Star Trek time machine.

The other day, I read a New York Times feature story about Tejal Rao, a Los Angeles-based restaurant critic and food writer. The story is about how Rao recently opened a "Personal Museum of Smells," a collection of smells that reminds her of her Los Angeles neighborhood. Right away, she grabbed me with her opening paragraph:

"In my office," Rao wrote, "I'm getting the muted smell of old cookbooks – like a loaf of slightly sour bread, or a package of extra thin and crisp chocolate chip cookies – plus something earthier and soggy underneath it all, which I associate exclusively with public libraries on rainy days."

My office-library smells like that – the wonderful scent of books – new ones, old ones. Aromas of paper, binding glue, leather covers – the way the old St. Cloud Carnegie Public Library smelled.

After reading Rao's story, I spent a couple hours taking a pleasant journey into the past by recalling favorite smells. It's a fun way to "travel," especially during pandemic isolation.

Diesel fumes in a split second transport me back to my exhilarating year in London. The whole of that city smells like diesel fumes (at least in 1980-81). Diesel fumes also remind me of the Greyhound buses of my youth as they arrived or departed at the depot in downtown

**Dennis
Dalman**

Reporter



St. Cloud, stirring in me a deep longing to see the big world.

Many smells awaken happy times I spent in the early 1950s at Grandpa and Grandma Saunders' farm near Benson: sweet clover, Coco Castile bar soap, grandpa's black tea brewing in the kitchen, the pungent smell of red geraniums by sunny windows, the barn when cows were being milked (old wood, earthy hay and straw mixed with a slight reek of manure).

My childhood house and neighborhood in the south St. Cloud college area can be rapidly recaptured by the following scents: pine trees and Play-Doh (happy Christmases), cigarette smoke, lilacs in spring, linoleum floors, rain falling on hot sidewalks, freshly painted rooms, a fresh-peeled orange, cinnamon rolls baking, the smell of new vinyl music albums, just-cut grass, roads being tarred, the smell of a hot rolled-up St. Cloud Times newspaper tossed by a paperboy against the front door, oil-and-gasoline (my auto-mechanic dad often smelled like that when he'd pick us up to give us whisker-burn hugs) and the dusty smell of old-car upholstery (dad's Studebaker, circa 1955).

For many, mirror reflects land of white privilege

2020 showed us eye-opening disparities and awareness of the need for racial justice that Americans have not seen since the Civil Rights Movement.

Oppression, racism, injustice and privilege are all topics that create feelings of conflict when raised no matter how they are approached. We look at others, and within nanoseconds, we automatically categorize them into societal groups. It's almost robotic.

Being a social work student has pushed me to reflect on these topics, with a recent emphasis on my white privilege along with the opposing subject of oppression. My reflections keep reminding me we continue to grapple with racial tensions, and the color of someone's skin matters in this society. Depending on that color, you could have a rocky (and sometimes deadly) road, a smooth ride or somewhere in between.

In February, we celebrated Black History Month, where we recognize the general movement and history of Black Americans. I have also come to recognize the injustices African Americans face; the focus recently surrounding police brutality against people of color. We all know this is not a new concept from the past year, but I need to talk about it because there should be no silence on the topic.

The death of George Floyd in May 2020 has forced Minnesotans to confront racism, specifically among those who are supposed to protect and serve their citizens. Based on data collected in Minneapolis alone, police officers use force against people of color seven times more than their white counterparts. When we

**Abigail
Thomas**

Guest Writer



widen our lens, we see in the United States, people of color are twice as likely to be fatally shot or killed by police compared to white people.

This should not be normal, especially when there is a lack of accountability with police officers.

For example, Jamar Clark, 24, was shot and killed in 2015 when police were called by paramedics who said Clark was interfering with efforts to treat an assault victim. According to the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Clark refused to take his hands out of his pockets. The officers tried to handcuff him. Clark was wrestled to the ground and shot in just more than a minute from the time officers arrived at the scene. The officers were not charged.

In 2016, Philando Castile, 32, was shot and killed after being pulled over by police for a busted tail light. Castile said he had a gun in the glove compartment where his registration was and was reaching to get the registration. The officer fired seven rounds at close range, with five of the bullets hitting Castile. The encounter was less than a minute. The officer was acquitted of any charges.

In 2018, Thurman Blevins, 31, was fatally shot. Officers were responding to a 911 call about an apparently drunk man walking down the street firing a

School days return in a flash with certain aromas: fallen autumn leaves have the smell of pencil shavings from when we'd sharpen them in classrooms, any waxed floor smells like school to me and Brut cologne (so popular in the mid-1960s) brings me right back to the busy halls of St. Cloud's Tech High School.

Buttered popcorn? I'm right back in St. Cloud's Paramount Theater, thrilling to adventure films or in a state of edge-of-my-seat suspense at those great Alfred Hitchcock movies.

Musty basement smells carry me back to Grandpa and Grandma Dalman's tiny house near Selke Field in east St. Cloud. Their set of encyclopedias, stored in the basement, smelled like that, even years after I "inherited" those books.

The wonderful aroma of baking bread brings happy memories of working at Lakeland (Holsum) Bakery in east St. Cloud.

The New York Times also published comments from readers about their favorite smells. Here's one of them:

"When I was growing up, my dad owned a concrete business. To this day, the smell of newly poured concrete at a construction site stops me in my tracks, and I think he must be somewhere near." – Jeanne Prittinen, 60, northern Minnesota.

I invite readers to share their favorite smell-related memories, so they can be published in a future Newsleader column. Email them to Dennis at news@thenewsleaders.com.

semi-automatic handgun into the air and ground. Blevins refused multiple commands to drop the gun and put his hands up, and instead, led the two officers on a foot chase that ended in an alley. Blevins took the gun from his pants pocket and began to turn toward the officers. The officers fired 14 shots, four of which struck Blevins. No charges were filed.

George Floyd, 46, died in 2020 after police responded to a call about possible counterfeiting. The officer who allegedly knelt on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes goes on trial March 8 for second-degree murder and manslaughter. Construction crews have been setting up concrete barriers, non-scalable fencing and barbed wire around several Minneapolis buildings where protests are expected.

The question is, why are protests expected? Will we see accountability for this officer and justice for Floyd? Or, is the lack-of-accountability trend going to continue?

To change centuries of deeply ingrained racism would take an army, sweeping policy changes and, at the very least, recognition of systemic racism. The confederate flags and nooses waved at our nation's capital Jan. 6 are a clear indication that we have a long way to go.

The conversation of racism, police brutality and injustice cannot stop. I encourage you to do your own self-reflection as I do every day. If you believe we live in a just society where we are all treated equally, then maybe what you see in the mirror is the problem.

Public notice

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748
JAN. 25, 2021
SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Jason Nies. Members present: Nies; Amanda Byrd, clerk; Matt Moehrle, treasurer; Patrick Marushin, director; Tricia Meling, director; and Jeff Schwiebert, superintendent. Members present via teleconference: Jeremy Snoberger, chair. Members absent: none.

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

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Byrd to APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS A.4.a – A.4.d AS PRESENTED BELOW. All in favor. Motion carried.

A.4.a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on Dec. 21, 2020

Minutes of the organizational meeting/work session held on Jan. 4, 2021

A.4.b Checks in the amount of \$3,118,994.71 as presented:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | 2,769,348.11 |
| Food Service Fund | 92,383.06 |
| Transportation Fund | 174,695.00 |
| Community Service Fund | 42,522.71 |
| Capital Expenditure Fund | 39,234.10 |
| Activity Accounts | 548.97 |
| Internal Service Fund | 262.76 |
| Check numbers 180226 – 180429 | |

ACHs in the amount of \$2,024.33 as presented:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| General Fund | 2,024.33 |
| ACH numbers 202000069-202000079 | |

Receipts in the amount of \$4,786,828.30 as presented:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | 4,350,565.82 |
| Food Service Fund | 122,836.91 |
| Community Service Fund | 84,974.87 |
| Building Fund | 105.42 |
| Debt Service Fund | 211,394.47 |
| Activity Accounts | 2,550.00 |
| Internal Service Fund | 14,400.81 |
| Receipts 48281 - 48370 | |

Wire transfers in the amount of \$6,186,791.18 as presented:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| General Fund | 89,312.69 |
| Food Service Fund | 7,775.18 |
| Transportation Fund | 86.46 |
| Community Service Fund | 394.99 |
| Capital Expenditure Fund | 66,475.00 |
| Building Fund | 14,681.42 |
| Debt Service Fund | 5,536,070.00 |
| Activity Accounts | 2,585.94 |
| Internal Service Fund | 469,409.50 |
| Wire transfers 202000309-202000363 | |

Building Fund Checks in the amount of \$38,703.31 as presented:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Building Fund | 38,703.31 |
| Check numbers 601201 to 601203 | |

A.4.c Accept the following donations:
Sartell-St. Stephen Education Foundation, ISD #748, \$12,720.00, SSEF grants rounds 2 and 3; Wee Trees, Richard and Rosie Warzecha, Pine Meadow Elementary, \$150.00, general donation.

A.4.d Accept the resignation of Tiana Jestus, ORELC, cafeteria worker, 1/25/21 and Rachel Rhines, SMS, para, 1/6/21.
Student Representative Report:
Student Representative Courtney Snoberger reported on happenings around the district. Oak Ridge is having a virtual preschool/ECFE information meeting for families tonight and will host a virtual kindergarten meeting on Feb. 1. Pine Meadow students are working on winter benchmark assessments and planning for the “day of play” on Feb. 3. Second-grade students will be voting on the top 10 picture books read to

them for Star of the North awards. Riverview teachers and staff have been reviewing student expectations as students transition back to in-person. The first gymnastics meet was held in the newly built gymnastics area and conferences will be held virtually next in February. The Middle school is focusing on their benchmark standards and preparing for virtual conferences in February. The High School started second semester, which felt like it was a brand new school year. Exactly 160 students took part in the distance learning support session offered on Jan. 15. Students have been given additional SA time during the week, which has been liked by many. Teachers have had their second equity training and the SAFES program presented on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Registration for next year’s classes will be held on Feb. 11 and 12.

School Exec Connect Report:
Ken Dragseth and Bob Ostlund of School Exec Connect presented an update on the Superintendent search.

Superintendent Report:
Superintendent Jeff Schwiebert started by thanking CentraCare for the donation of 375 vaccinations for staff, this was in addition to the earlier ones received from the State of Minnesota. The last step in the building component of the new High School site will be the extension of the road from 13th Avenue along the west end of the school property. The District is responsible for 1,100 feet of the road. MSBA held their conference virtually this year, with the most recent session discussing the MSHSL’s role during the pandemic. Gov. Tim Walz released his “Due North” education plan at the start of the legislative session.

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

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

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

Professional Development Report:

Assistant Superintendent Kay Nelson reported on the

professional development day held on Jan. 22, 2021.

School Board Committee Report:
Clerk Bryd and Director Marushin reported on the MSBA virtual conference they attended.

Director Meling reported on the recent Sartell Senior Connection meeting.

A motion was made by Byrd and seconded by Marushin to APPROVE #1-23:

New Employees/Changes:
Neil Anderson, RIS, custodian, \$17.61/hour, RIII, S1, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year, replacing Bethany Calhoun, 1/25/2021; Char Becker, ORELC, para, \$21.87/hour, RIV, S6, 6.5 hours/day, new position, 1/11/2021; Bethany Calhoun, SHS, part-time cleaner, \$16.89/hour, RI, S2, 4 hours/day, 185 days/year, returning to previous position, 12/17/2020; Lauren Cruze, ORELC, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 3 hours/day, M/W/F, new position, 1/11/2021; Londa Cruze, ORELC, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 3 hours/day, new position, 1/11/2021; Maria Davis, RIS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, replacing Julith Diethelm, 1/18/2021; Chris Durden, SHS, LTS – Math, \$229.52/day, BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Kerry Trnka, 1/22/2021; Steven Gregory, ORELC, lead custodian, \$18.96/hour, RIV, S1, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year, replacing Bev Wiebe, 1/13/2021; Mitchell Keeler, SMS, wrestling coach (outside funded), \$2,667 (6.35 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), new position, 1/4/2021; Daniel Marod, RIS, LTS – Para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, replacing Kayla Vadnais, 1/12/2021; Hannah McKeag, SHS, boys swim, \$3,990 (9.5 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,2002), replacing Chris Campbell, 1/4/2021; Maya Murphy, PMPS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Char Becker, 1/12/2021; John Ross, SHS, business education, \$27,176, MA30, Step R (\$81,535), .3333 FTE, replacing Rustie Froeming, 1/25/2021; Ronell Uran, SMS, winter activities supervision, \$945 (2.25 percent), BA, A (\$42,002), replacing Cody Olson, 1/20/2021; Molly Vogt, St. Francis Xavier, Title I, \$28.69/hour, BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Julie Olson, 1/21/2021; Isaiah Wallace, SMS, para, \$16.42/hour, RIV, S1, 7 hours/day, replacing Judy Beck, 1/25/2021; Lyndsey Welch, SMS, boys' swim coach, \$2,667 (6.35 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Jennifer Thompson,

1/4/2021; Beverly Wiebe, RIS, lead custodian, \$24.76/hour, RIV, S6, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year, replacing Burton Ramsey, 1/11/2021.

Leaves of Absence:
Dianne Amundson, Transportation, bus driver, LOA, 1/11/21-2/8/21; Stacy Clitty, SHS, receptionist, LOA, 1/11/21-2/19/21 (intermittent); June Krone, RIS, food service worker, LOA, 1/1/21-3/1/21; Jody Schave, RIS, custodian, LOA, 1/11/21-2/8/21; Kerry Trnka, SHS, teacher, LOA, 1/25/21-end of school year.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Meling and seconded by Byrd TO APPROVE SARTELL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Moehrle and seconded by Marushin TO APPROVE ST. CLOUD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERSHIP. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Byrd and seconded by Moehrle TO APPROVE THE 2021-2022 SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Byrd and seconded by Marushin TO APPROVE REVISIONS TO POLICIES 415, 616, 806 AND 206 WITH THE CHANGE OF HIS OR HER TO THEIR ON PAGE 206-4. All in favor. Motion carried.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Future Board Work Session – Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021 @ District Service Center - 6 p.m.

Future Regular Board Meeting – Monday, Feb. 22, 2021 @ Sartell High School - 6:30 p.m.

Committee Assignments were reviewed.

A motion to ADJOUTN THE MEETING AT 8:36 p.m. was made by Marushin and seconded by Moehrle. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Amanda Byrd, clerk

Publish: March 5, 2021

Money-Saving Tips

If you feel like your general income isn't enough to have leftovers for saving, you should analyze your spending habits and find ways to cut corners.

Most financial experts suggest that people build an emergency fund to cover at least three months of expense and ideally six.

However, America's Debt Help Organization recommends holding two separate accounts for more peace of mind.

- A short-term fund should contain between \$500-\$1,500 to cover immediate emergencies like a car or home repair.
- A long-term savings account should cover factors like losing your job, facing a health crisis or damage from a natural disaster.

Since Americans' cash flow requirement varies, it's imperative to look at your situation and financial commitments to find an ample amount. When saving money seems like an impossibility, consider these tips from the Consumer Federation of America to adjust your spending habits.

REVIEW YOUR MONTHLY BUDGET

On the first day of a new month, ask for a receipt for your purchases. As the 30 days close, sort the records



© ADOBE STOCK

into categories between restaurants, entertainment and necessities. A visual guide to where your money is going can open your eyes to better savings. If following a paper trail proves too challenging, consider downloading an app that tracks your fiscal activity.

SAVE AUTOMATICALLY

Determine how much you need from each paycheck to cover your bills and allow a

little spending freedom. If your employer allows direct deposit, ask your manager about sending a portion of your earnings to a separate savings account. An automatic deposit keeps your extra cash out of sight and out of mind.

SAVE EXTRA MONEY

Commit to living on a specific wage and be diligent in depositing any extra windfall

into savings. For instance, bonuses for work, earnings for side jobs, tax refunds or profits for selling items around your home can quickly increase an interest-generating savings account.

PAY OFF CREDIT CARDS IN FULL

Don't allow yourself to get stuck in unmanageable credit card debt. Keep your balances low and do your best to pay

the bill in full.

PAY BILLS ON AUTOPAY

Keeping track of monthly bills can prove to be challenging. Avoid paying late fees or facing derogatory credit reporting statements by signing up for autopay on applicable commitments. When using this strategy, it's imperative to efficiently balance your checkbook to avoid overdrafts.

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