

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Sept. 17, 2021
Volume 26, Issue 19
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Craft fair set Sept. 18

St. Joseph Craft Fair will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18 behind the newly built St. Joseph Government Center at 75 Callaway St. E.

Donate electronic devices

United Way is hosting a Device Drive from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23 in the Quinlivan & Hughes parking lot located at 1740 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud. Donate your old, working devices like laptops and tablets. Devices will be repaired or recycled to support families in need through access to technology. Accepted donations include computer towers and desktops, laptops, LCD monitors, tablets and cellphones (must be restored to factory settings), networking equipment, servers, printers, keyboards and mice. All donations are securely scrubbed and tested. Contact Mary Krippner, director of volunteer engagement, at 320-223-7991 or MKrippner@unitedwayhelps.org.

Kids Fighting Hunger event set Sept. 23

Kids Fighting Hunger Food Packaging Event is part of Days of Caring scheduled for Sept. 23. There are two shifts available. (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m.) and they will package at the Kids Fighting Hunger Packaging Center located in the C4 Welding Building at 11 Industrial Blvd, Sauk Rapids. Up to 40 people may register. Wear comfortable clothing. People of all ages are welcome. KFH is a volunteer driven organization. The food packaged will be shipped to a community in need in Africa. Visit <https://getconnected.unitedwayhelps.org> or contact Mary Krippner at mkrippner@unitedwayhelps.org.

Donate your extra veggies to the food shelf!

Donate your extra produce from your garden to your local food shelf. Favorites include carrots, beans, beets, kohlrabi, corn, potatoes, cabbage, peppers, onions and asparagus. Any produce that has a longer shelf life is accepted. This is an easy way to help our food shelves during the summer and fall.

- Catholic Charities Emergency Services at (320) 229-4560
- CROSS Center at (320) 968-7012
- The Salvation Army at (320) 252-4552

INSERTS:
City of St. Stephen
newsletter

Kids Over Politics 748

Council agrees to move neighborhood court

by Dennis Dalman

news@thenewsleaders.com

A city-owned public basketball court in “The Wilds” neighborhood of Sartell will be moved next spring to Pinecone Central Park.

The Sartell City Council at its Sept. 13 meeting agreed unanimously to take that action. Four residents from that neighborhood spoke up at the council meeting, as did five residents at the Aug. 23 meeting. The controversy over that basketball court first came before the council 18 months ago. About a year ago, the council voted to keep the park within the neighborhood while hoping a solution to the residents’ complaints could be found.

Some speakers spoke forcefully for keeping the court in the neighborhood, and one man presented the council with a petition signed by 68 of the residents there who are in favor of keeping the court, which has been there for 20 years. One woman, however, who lives by the court, said the city should move it because of problems that include increased traffic, loud verbal noise, loud music, inappropriate language, incidents of public urination, playing loudly after park hours and other disruptions. The woman said she has three children and is concerned as to what they could be exposed to.

Another woman, however, said she has never witnessed any problems in regard to that court and that she has met and talked to “kind and talented” athletes who play there, many who happen to be Black young men who do not live in the neighborhood. The woman said the controversy is likely to give Sartell a reputation for being “a wealthy, non-inviting White community.”

Two men also spoke in favor of leaving the court where it is. It’s good for the kids and good for the neighborhood, and solutions to any problems that arise can be worked out, they said. One of the men, the one who presented the signed petition, said he lives down the block from the court and hasn’t heard or seen anything upsetting since the concerns were raised 18 months ago.

The “court issue” began when the virus pandemic caused many recreation places in the greater St. Cloud area to shut their doors. As a result, more young people from other areas began coming to Sartell to use the basketball court at The Wilds.

Some of the complaints mentioned by residents to the city council at that time were increased noise; foul language; public urination; at least one case of indecent exposure; trespassing on the lawns of the houses that virtually surround the park; intimidation of other park users; roller-hockey games being played; increased traffic on Grizzly Lane; lack of peace and privacy for residents; and hesitancy of some residents’ young children to use the park.

During a long discussion at the Sept. 13 meeting, all council members expressed empathy for both sides of the issue, but all came to an agreement that something must be done even though problems at the court do not affect most of the people in that neighborhood.

Council member Tim Elness began by saying the developer had created that court and park many years ago right next to residents’ homes. That kind of proximity, he said, was bound to create problems sooner or later, with so many someday coming to

Court • page 2



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Taking a drive

August Fleming, 15 months, and his brother Henry, 4, both of Sartell, hop into a car Aug. 31 at the Pine Meadow Elementary playground and “drive to Sartell.”

Peterson named interim activities director

by Mike Knaak

news@thenewsleaders.com

A Sartell High School assistant principal has been named the interim activities director.

Nick Peterson, an assistant principal at the high school since 2016 will replace Ryan Hauge.

Hauge, activities director since 2017, left to take the secondary school principal job in the Rocori school district.

The district will search for an interim assistant principal for the 2021-2022 school. In the spring the district will conduct a search to permanently fill the activities director position starting with the 2022-23 school year.



Peterson

“We are excited to have Nick step into this role for the school district,” said Sascha Hansen, high school principal. “His experience in both curricular and extracurricular programs, knowledge of ISD 748 and well-established relationships will make the transition a smooth one. Our coaches and activities advisors are looking forward to working with Nick in this new capacity.”

The activities director works with coaches, advisors and students and oversees extracurricular and co-curricular activities and athletics.

New equity committee sets listening session for Sept. 20

by Mike Knaak

news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell-St. Stephen school district’s Educational Equity and Student Experience committee met for the first time on Sept. 13. Overviews and notes from the committee and listening-session information are available on the district’s Educational Equity webpage: www.sartell.k12.mn.us/EducationalEquity.

The public is invited to listening sessions, scheduled monthly on the Mondays after committee meetings. Based on feedback from the committee meetings, each listening session will focus on a different topic. The next listening session will be at 4:15 p.m. Monday, Sept. 20, at the Learning Stairs in the high school. The topic will be Student Support Services and Mental Health.

In forming the committee, district leaders aimed for approximately 50 percent student involvement, 25 percent staff and 25 percent parent/guardian/district residents. Of the more than 180 applications received from district students, staff, parents/guardians and residents, almost 50 were students leaving less than 50 vacancies for the 130-plus adults who applied. The committee will be

comprised of approximately 50 percent students, 20 percent staff and 30 percent parents/guardians/district residents.

Students selected to be on the committee must have parent/guardian consent. Some parents/guardians did not provide consent for their students’ names/photos to be used, so no photos will be taken at committee meetings.

Court

from front page

use the court.

Council member Alex Lewandowski agreed.

“It’s time to take action on it,” he said, adding that it’s a hard decision to make. “We’ve talked about it for a year and a half. The issue, he said, is an example of “regional” vs. “neighborhood” in which a large amenity like the basketball court attracts too many people to a quiet neighborhood.

Council member Jill Smith said a significant number of people near that court are upset, and the council cannot ignore their complaints. Relocating the court to Pinecone Regional Park would

be advantageous because it is only a few blocks away from The Wilds neighborhood.

Council member Jeff Kolb said he respects the viewpoints of all the neighbors there, but the fact remains some neighbors, those closest to the court, have been directly affected by the increased use of the amenity – thus, the council should do something to help them.

Mayor Ryan Fitzthum acknowledged it’s not an easy decision to make but the heavily used “regional” amenity, the court, has caused some deterioration of the neighborhood park.

The council then voted 5-0 to move the park. The cost to the city to move the court to Pinecone Central Park will be anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

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

Aug. 27

4:47 p.m. DWI. Second Street S. Dispatch was notified of a male who appeared to be sleeping in a drive-through. A second caller called dispatch stating the male appeared to be sleeping; he was breathing but not responding. The second caller stated he had shut the truck off. The officer entered the vehicle and shook the driver, who then woke up and was able to speak to the officer. The officer asked questions to see if the driver was experiencing a medical emergency. After a short period of time, it became apparent to the officer the driver was under the influence of a substance. The officers placed the male under arrest without incident. The officers were also informed the male had a warrant for his arrest. The male was transported to the Stearns County Jail and left in their care.

Aug. 28

7:14 a.m. Verbal. Terry Lane. A complainant called dispatch requesting to speak to an officer about a construction worker starting work at 7 a.m. on a Saturday morning. Dispatch informed the complainant the city noise ordinance didn’t apply as it was after 7 a.m. The complainant also stated the two had engaged in a verbal argument and the workers had sworn at her. The officer arrived on scene and spoke to the construction worker. The worker said the female came outside and instantly started yelling and swearing at him and his son. The complainant’s son was also outside yelling at the workers. The worker did say he did use a swear word toward her when he told her to go back inside. The officer offered to speak to the complainant and her son, but the worker wanted to be left alone, to get the job done since he had been rained out earlier in the week.

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Lutheran Social Service of MN is seeking volunteers to provide companionships to older adults or work with school age children as a mentor. Volunteers of the program qualify for small hourly tax-free stipends and transportation reimbursement.

Please contact Janel at 320.241.5173 or Janel.Heinen@lssmn.org for more information and to make an impact in your community!!

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WEDNESDAYS
JAMZone & GodZone (1-5) 5:30 p.m.
Youth Discipleship Training (6-9) 7:15 p.m.

Aug. 29

12:47 a.m. Loud music. Fourth Avenue NE. A complainant called dispatch stating there was loud music in the cul de sac coming from a garage. The officer made contact with the homeowner and the homeowner stated they were done partying for the night. The officer did hear music, but the talking had been louder than the music.

Aug. 30

11:18 a.m. Found property. Glacier Avenue. Dispatch was notified someone had found two hypodermic needles, cased and empty laying in the grass right off the sidewalk. The officer collected the items and destroyed them per Sartell Police Department’s policy.

Aug. 31

11:04 a.m. Assist person. Pinecone Road N. An officer on routine patrol noticed a girl sitting on the walking path with her bike next to her and a few friends standing around. The officer turned his squad around and spoke to the girls. He found the girl had fallen off her bike and had a few scrapes. The officer helped bandage them up for her. The group was about to bike away when they realized her bike was damaged. A parent was called and responded to the location.

Sept. 1

12:03 p.m. Abandoned. First Street NE. An officer was dis-

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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	Editor Leanne Loy	Assignment Editor Carolyn Bertsch
Assistant Manager Rajahna Schneekloth	Designer Isabella Pemberton	

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.

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

Obituary

Kathleen E. Vouk
Feb. 12, 1943-Dec. 22, 2020
St. Joseph

Postponed due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the funeral of Kathleen E. Vouk was held Sept. 11 in the church in St. Stephen. The Rev. Bob Harren officiated. Kathy (Kay) Vouk, 77, died peacefully at home on Dec. 22, 2020 with her adoring husband by her side. Burial was in the parish cemetery. Arrangements were with Williams Dingmann Funeral Home, St. Cloud.

Vouk was born in St. Cloud to John and Martha (Justin) Schumer on Feb. 12, 1943. She grew up on the family farm and completed elementary school in St. Stephen, District 130 and graduated from St. Cloud Cathedral High School in 1961. She lived in St. Stephen most of her life, moving to St. Joseph with her husband in August of 2019. She worked at Minco Lens Co. in St. Stephen until September, 1964. She married Jim Vouk in St. Stephen on Oct. 12, 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 radio and watching the 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 include the following: 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, Holdingford, and Molly of Anandale; 26 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by brothers Joe and Jim (Marilyn) Schumer; sisters, S. Mary Schumer, OSB; Barbara (Dave) Loehlein, Cynthia 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. Memorials are preferred.

Calendar

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

Friday, Sept. 17
Sartell High School’s Homecoming Parade, 5:30 p.m. Parade begins at St. Francis Xavier and ends at Riverview Intermediate School.

Saturday, Sept. 18
Community Meal, 11:30-12:45, drive by and pick-up style, First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S, Sartell.
Traveling Wilburys Tribute: The Wandering Mulburys, 7:30 p.m. This is a paid event. Order tickets at www.ppfive.com. Pioneer Place, 22 Fifth Ave. S., St. Cloud.

Monday, Sept. 20
Spiritual R & R Day, 9-3:30 p.m. This day offers time and space for quiet prayer, reflection, reading, walking, resting and meeting with a spiritual director if desired. Group prayer begins and ends the day. Midday prayer with the sisters in the Oratory and noon meal with the sisters at the monastery are optional. Free-will offering accepted. Op-

tional paid meal at the monastery. Visit <https://sbm.osb.org/event/spiritual-r-r-day/> to register.
Fare For All, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 Co Rd 2, St. Joseph.
Sartell-St. Stephen School Board, 6:30 p.m., District Service Center, 212 Third Ave. N. Sartell.

Wednesday, Sept. 22
Citywide Garage Sale Weekend, City of St. Stephen.
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Advanced registration to attend in-person, call Ann at 320-258-7324.

Friday, Sept. 24
Citywide Garage Sale Weekend, City of St. Stephen.
Conversations on Race and Spirituality, sponsored by Bahai Faith, 7 p.m., second and fourth Fridays. bahaicentralmn.org.

Saturday, Sept. 25
Citywide Garage Sale Weekend, City of St. Stephen.

Monday, Sept. 27
Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N

Thursday, Sept. 30
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Advanced registration to attend in-person, call Ann at 320-258-7324.

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Cat Litter Box Issues

It can be frustrating when a previously housebroken cat begins eliminating outside the litter box or having other elimination problems.

Some cats can become finicky about their litter, the cleanliness of the box or having to share a litter box. Often, however, these problems are caused not simply by bad behavior but by an underlying health issue. In fact, for a handful of diseases and disorders, changes in elimination patterns can be the first clue that something is wrong.

FIRST STEPS

When your pet first begins having a litter box issue, check for simple issues first. These include too few litter boxes (you should have one on each level of the house), locating the litter box in a place where the cat doesn't feel safe or have privacy, or a change in litter or litter box.

If you can eliminate these issues that would be easy to fix, then you can move on to medical possibilities.

HEALTH ALERT

A handful of medical issues can cause cats to eschew the litter box or eliminate in inappropriate places. Some possibilities are a disease or disorder, or age-related changes that are normal for aging cats.



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Here is a run-down of the possibilities, according to Spruce Pets.

Diabetes or kidney disease. A cat may produce more urine than usual and either not be able to get to the litter box in time, or causing the litter to need changing sooner than usual.

Arthritis. A cat who is experiencing pain from arthritis might not be able to climb stairs to reach a litter box or climb into a covered litter box.

Urinary tract infections. Infections can cause pain while urinating, which can cause a cat to change its litter box habits.

Painful paws. Any condition that causes pain in a cat's paws can make it difficult for the cat to walk on its usual litter.

Dementia. Cats experiencing dementia might forget where the litter box is or how to use it.

Separation anxiety. If

you're gone for longer than usual, a cat might experience separation anxiety or stress, which can cause elimination problems.

A trip to the vet might be warranted to get a handle on the health issues related to litter box issues and get started with treatment.

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Opinion

Our View

Children, masks and insults – oh my!

As of last week, most of our students are back in school. Labor Day weekend is known to some as the last hurrah of summer. The seasons will begin to change this month and a bit of normality will find its way back in our lives again – or some may hope.

We’ve come far during the last year with this pandemic and yet, now that schools are back in session, it’s beginning to feel like we are backtracking. Fear of this new virus variant is taking a front-row seat in some of our lives and the battle between what is right and what is wrong is turning neighbor against neighbor.

Some schools are requiring students to wear masks while others are leaving it up to the discretion of the parents. In any case, opinions and emotions have begun to surface again as we take it upon ourselves to point fingers at who we deem a decent human and who we deem is not.

Even though masking has been proven to help keep viruses and germs away, there are those who will argue they do no good, and they will show you their “facts” to prove it. Wearing masks is new to our country, but it’s a method that has been used in other countries for years, even before the pandemic. With anything that is new there will always be big debates until enough time has passed and enough proof has been given.

The unfortunate thing about all of this is our reaction to it and how we are treating each other. Those who wear a mask are called sheep and fearmongers, while those who don’t are considered selfish and uneducated. The hope is someday people will realize wearing a mask has nothing to do with politics and the name-calling just makes us all sound like irrational babies.

Maybe they help, maybe they don’t. I’m sure whatever “facts” you find on it will mirror your own personal beliefs. In the end all that really matters is we are creating an environment for our kids, and they are always watching. What will they see when they look at you?

It doesn’t matter if we find out 50 years from now that masks don’t actually work. Those of us who put the masks on will look back on this time and know they did whatever they could to protect themselves and those around them and it really was no sweat.

The bottom line is there is nothing wrong with wearing a mask. It simply means you desire to protect yourself, your family and those in the community who have a weakened immunity. So stop the insults; they’re not becoming for any of us.

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.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space or to not publish.

The hypocrisy of standing for freedom

Heidi L. Everett

Guest writer



St. Cloud School District’s mission is to provide a safe and caring climate and culture for learning. Sartell-St. Stephen School District has a “whole child focus” that states each child deserves to be healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged.

To that end, taking measures to protect others – whether temporary or permanent – are certainly within the bounds of government at all levels.

Wearing a mask, just like wearing seat belts or requiring shoes and a shirt in a store, does not violate rights. It’s this care for the health and safety of others that allows me to stand in line at a convenience store and not be bothered by a sweaty, shirtless, mangy-footed slob with a Lucky Strike dangling from his dry lips.

Unfortunately, when it comes to outcries about stifled freedom and choice, we do not view these ideals as universal rights. Instead, we attempt to wield their rhetorical power when it is convenient for what we want to do or don’t want to do.

The views of those who cannot be encouraged or bribed into getting a COVID vaccine because they stand for medical freedom will be put to the test in October when the Supreme Court of the

United States hears *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*. I would imagine many of those Facebook filters that proclaim “I stand for medical freedom” will disappear because the reality is many of these bumper-sticker advocates only stand for what suits them and not true medical freedom. We can’t make people get a vaccination, but we can force a woman to stay pregnant regardless of what she and her medical team and support network feel is in her best interests? I had to shake my head at the Medical Freedom Rally protestors with the “my body, my choice” placards. Hold on to those signs. We’ll need them again soon.

The 100-year anniversary of women gaining the right to vote in Minnesota was celebrated Aug. 26. This is a true historic milestone regarding freedom and choice that occurred 145 years after the United States became a country.

Yet we think our freedom is stifled because we temporarily have to wear a mask to school?

In 2001, the U.S. State Department released a report on the Taliban’s war against women, detailing accounts of medical care being denied, girls over the age of eight being banned from an education and women being beaten in public for exposing their ankles. This regime is now back in charge.

If you really want to understand loss of freedom and choice, send your bold, brave and brilliant daughters over to Afghanistan. You’ll quickly realize how easy we have it.

Fantasy football great for friends, fun

Connor Kockler

Guest writer



what positions they are filling. Sometimes a player who did very well for you one year ends up moving to a new team where they won’t be in as many plays or ends up with more players competing for their role. You also have to watch out for injuries that might happen even a few days before your draft so you know if a player won’t be able to play right away.

Even with all of this research and careful planning, draft day still provides a tough, but exciting challenge. Odds are, my roommates have done this same research, and so know as well as me which players will be best to pick. As the draft goes on, there’s that feeling of elation getting that player you really wanted on your team. Then there’s the feeling of disappointment when someone snatches up a player you’d been saving till a later round, or a player that you thought you were the only one who had all the research on. But it’s fun because it forces you to be adaptable, sometimes going to your back-up choice in order to finally finish your team.

Once the draft is over though, the strategy and fun doesn’t stop. If un-

drafted players do well, my roommates and I race to see who can click to add them to our team first. Dropping a player who isn’t doing well at the moment is sometimes a risky consideration, as a roommate will then add them to their team and sometimes get good value from them. Trades are hashed out as each of us tries to fill out our team and get that one guy we really like.

And of course, all of the friendly banter and careful monitoring of every NFL game so we can keep track of how our team is doing. All of this pays off each week with either a win or a loss against whoever’s team you played against that week, and then into the end of the season, where the playoffs determine the fantasy champion, and bragging rights until the next year.

Though I’ve only recently started playing it in the past few years, fantasy football has been such a fun way to make football an even more entertaining experience, and build fun connections with my roommates and others I know who play fantasy.

It makes even a bad year for the Vikings bearable because if the Vikings are losing, your fantasy team could still be undefeated. I definitely recommend fantasy football to any football fan. I just don’t recommend picking a kicker early in the draft.

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

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

Sartell drops full watering ban

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

The Sartell City Council voted at its Sept. 13 meeting to lift the full water ban, effective immediately. However, the odd/even watering schedule is always in effect and property owners will be cited for non-compliance.

Property owners can begin to run irrigation systems, power wash and wash cars but should follow the odd/even watering schedule. If one’s address is 132 Test St., for example, one should water only on even numbered days, such as Sept. 24. If the house number is 133 Test St., watering should be done on odd days, such as Sept. 25.

Sartell is still listed as being in a “severe drought” by the Department of Natural Resources. Thus, residents should water only when necessary.

For questions, please contact the Public Works Director, John Kothenbeutel: john@sartellmn.com.

People

Jayne Stang, Sartell, recently graduated with an associate’s degree in nursing from Northwest Technical College, Bemidji, Minnesota.

Five Sartell students recently graduated from Bemidji (Minnesota) State University.

They and their degrees are as follows: **Taylor Harren**, bachelor’s degree in social work; **Kenneth Karna**, master’s degree in special education; **McKenna Lalim**, bachelor’s degree in business administration; **Stephanie Partch**, bachelor’s degree in business administration; and **Joseph Patten**, master’s degree in teaching in education.

Two Sartell High School graduates were among 582 incoming freshman who received scholarships from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for the 2021-22 academic year. They and their scholarships are as follows: **Julia Johnson**, Chancellors Academic Excellence Scholarship and Freshman Honors Scholarship; and **Leighton Stebbins**, Chancellors Academic Excellence Scholarship.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN ISD 748 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Notice is hereby given that Sartell-St. Stephen ISD 748

Requests proposals for:

Group Medical Insurance

Specifications will be available from the District’s Agent of Record, National Insurance Services, at 14852 Scenic Heights Road, Suite 210, Eden Prairie, MN 55344, phone 800-627-3660.

Proposals are due no later than 2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 27, 2021, at the Sartell-St. Stephen ISD 748 School District Administration Office located at 212 Third Ave. N., Sartell, MN 56377, along with a copy to National Insurance Services, 14852 Scenic Heights Road, Suite 210, Eden Prairie, MN 55344 or as specified in the RFP.

Publish: Sept. 17 & Oct. 1, 2021

Blotter

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patched to a parking lot for an out-of-state vehicle that had been left there for three weeks and appeared to have two bullet holes in it. The officer arrived and witnessed the two bullet holes in the vehicle, but it did not appear to be new. The officer was able to locate mail in the rear seat of the vehicle and ran a local check on the name. The female had no local contacts. The officer had dispatch teletype Dallas Police Department to check the last known address. Dallas Police were unable to make contact with the owner. The officer contacted the complainant of what he had found out.

Sept. 2

8:55 a.m. Information call. Pinecone Road N. Sartell City Maintenance called to inform an officer that a roundabout had been toilet papered at Pinecone Road and 27th Street and the trees near 15th Street N. Maintenance had cleaned the

area up but wanted the police department to be aware.

Sept. 3

1:59 p.m. Gunshots. 10th Avenue N. Stearns County Dispatch and Sartell Police Department received numerous calls within a 20-minute timeframe of people hearing gun shots in the area. The officers were able to narrow down area where the shots possibly had come from. A few callers confirmed it sounded like a rifle. One officer used a Nopic camera looking for heat sensitivity in the woods, while two officers were out on foot checking the area

and a fourth officer was driving the area. Nothing was found.

Sept. 4

11:53 p.m. Suspicious vehicle. Fifth Street N. A Sartell reserve officer was out on patrol when they noticed a vehicle parked in the Pine Meadow Elementary School parking lot. The Reserve made contact with the driver of the car; he was shooting baskets on the basketball court. The driver was advised to leave the school grounds because of the time of night. The driver left the area without incident.

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Steps to Take after a Raise

It can be tempting to celebrate a raise at your job by splurging on a new vehicle or upgrading a home.

With the right strategy, however, you can use the increased income surge to better your future and set yourself up for financial freedom.

Depending on the amount, you may enter a higher tax bracket, meaning you will be responsible for a higher bill at the end of the year. The most effective way to discover your potential fees is to discuss the raise with your accountant. They will gauge your gross pay and create a solution to ensure you're contributing enough of your salary throughout the year to avoid a significant tax shock. If you need to adjust your withholdings, speak with your company's human resources or payroll department with the concern.

Before jumping into a risky monetary situation, consider these proactive steps to make your money work for you long term.

INVEST IN RETIREMENT

After receiving a raise, invest in yourself by padding your retirement contributions toward a more financially stable future. You should consider building both a 401(k) and an Individual Retirement Account to create the most substantial growth. If you find it challenging to physically

transfer money into these accounts, ask your employer if they can automatically withdraw it from your paycheck. Find out if your employer offers to match your contribution and try to meet the maximum amount they allow to double your retirement earnings.

BUILD AN EMERGENCY FUND

While buying lavish things and taking exciting trips may have short-term mental benefits, having peace of mind to withstand an emergency can create even more positive effects. The experts at America's Debt Help

Organization recommend maintaining enough cash to cover at least three months' worth of expenses, and ideally six. Use the extra money to cushion your emergency fund and transition through financial disasters without relying on high-interest credit cards or loans.

KNOCK DOWN DEBTS

A quick way to create more room for savings is to knock out debts. Bills like credit cards, automotive loans and a mortgage can take up a considerable chunk of your earnings each month. Use your new financial windfall to lower your financial commitments.



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