

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Oct. 1, 2021
Volume 26, Issue 20
Est. 1995

Town Crier

U.S. Sen. Smith to speak Oct. 14

The 15th annual Eugene J. McCarthy Lecture with U.S. Sen. Tina Smith will take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14 in the Stephen B. Humphrey Theatre on the St. John's University campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Blood donors needed

Blood that is donated through the American Red Cross helps patients of all ages including cancer and sickle cell patients, trauma and burn patients, and patients with chronic diseases. Minimum requirements for whole-blood donation include donation frequency of every 56 days, must be in good health and feeling well, at least age 16 and weigh at least 110 lbs. Visit www.redcross.org for more information. A one-time blood donation can save up to three lives! Schedule an appointment to give blood today! Visit <https://www.redcross-blood.org/give.html/find-drive>.

Variety of options to help youth

180 Degrees is a program that supports youth and young adults through emergency shelter, transitional living and foster care. They are looking for volunteers to help youth with cooking, yard work and gardening, lead activities such as yoga, self-defense, art, photography, sewing etc. Contact Jacey, 180 Degrees, at 320-259-6764 or stcloud@180degrees.org.

Animal care providers

Shelter animal care providers help keep a clean atmosphere for the animals and visitors at the Tri-County Humane Society as well as provide attention to the animals while they are waiting to be adopted. Volunteers keep cages and animal areas clean, socialize the animals, assist customers with viewing animals and take shelter dogs for walks. Customerservice skills are important for this position. Volunteer shifts are generally a minimum of two hours per week and needed early/mid-day weekday shifts. For more information, contact Kate Kompas, TCHS volunteer/humane education coordinator, at 320-252-0896, ext. 27, or volunteer@tricityhumane-society.org.

INSERT:
City of St. Stephen
newsletter

Bennett pays tribute to late, great friend Sophie



contributed photo

Bennett Prose, 14, awaits customers at his lemonade stand by the Morningstar neighborhood in Sartell. During many days of selling lemonade, he raised money for two projects to honor his late, great school friend, Sophie Wieland, who died tragically at age 14.

Police retire blue-line decals, opt for new ones

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell police cars will soon be sporting new decals after Police Chief Jim Hughes and other officers recently agreed to replace the “thin blue line” flag decal that some Sartell residents considered inappropriate and/or offensive.

The new decal will show the words “REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN” above a blue line. Under the blue line it states “IN VALOR THERE IS HOPE.”

The now-defunct decal, which was on the right side of police cars, showed a thin blue line in the middle of wavy black-and-white flag stripes.

Last March, Sartell resident Hannah Kosloski started a petition that was eventually signed by 600 people. Her petition, calling for removal of

the decals, stated the thin blue line logo had been used by groups like “Blue Lives Matter” (named as an echo of “Black Lives Matter”) to mock calls for racial justice and police accountability.

That decal flag, Kosloski wrote, “is now used as a tool of oppression and hatred. We need to be taking direct action to learn, re-learn and assess our own racial bias in order to address national systemic issues that exist in our own backyard. This is just the tip of the iceberg.”

Kosloski filed a complaint with the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union a few months ago.

However, there was plenty of push-back from other Sartell residents who started their own petition in support of the

Decals • Page 8

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

As friends since second grade in Sartell, Sophie Wieland and Bennett Prose had so much in common. Both loved learning, enjoyed reading, excelled in sports and academics, and both worked hard to make all students feel inclusive.

Sadly, Sophie died tragically at age 14 on July 12, leaving best friend Bennett and so many others devastated. As 14-year-old Bennett struggled with the terrible loss, he began to develop a plan: to sell lemonade in honor of Sophie and to donate some of the proceeds to the “Suicide Awareness Voices of Education,” a suicide-prevention program also known as “SAVE.”

Bennett set up a lemonade

stand by his “Morningstar” Sartell neighborhood at the corner of Fifth Avenue N. and 15th Street. For several days, he sold ice-cold lemonade, 25 cents a cup, and customers who stopped were very generous, many of them having known and loved Sophie and donating extra for the good cause in her name.

Bennett raised an impressive amount: \$4,016. Of those proceeds he donated \$1,200 to SAVE. The rest will be used to purchase and install a memorial bench and tree in Sophie’s honor by a biking path near Celebration Lutheran Church. That is where Sophie helped teach Sunday school, sang in the choir and ushered.

Bennett has had some discussions with city staff, and the bench-tree project

Bennett • Page 3

School Covid-19 dashboard returns as leaders monitor cases

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

Now that the latest data for the school year is available, the Covid-19 dashboard is back on the Sartell-St. Stephen school district’s website.

The dashboard reports the current numbers of student and staff cases and absences for the last 14 days. The dashboard was posted Sept. 24 and will be updated every Thursday.

For the previous 14-day period, there have been 54 positive Covid-19 cases among students

and 11 staff cases. Those numbers translate to 238 student absences and 22 staff absences.

District Human Resources Director Krista Durrwachter updated the school board on Sept. 20 with a matrix developed to guide decisions about when to adjust mitigation strategies. The matrix lists four levels of transmission starting with low and ending with high. There are five indicators for each level that include transmission rate, cases, positive tests and vaccination rate. Right now, the district is

Covid-19 • Page 2



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Royalty greets crowds
Homecoming Queen and King Allie Engle and Evan Templin wave to bystanders at the Sept. 17 Homecoming parade. More Homecoming photos on page 8.

Covid-19

from front page

operating in a high transmission level because there’s significant community spread and that’s being reflected in students and staff.

During a time of high transmission, face coverings are required in all facilities at all times. No visitors are allowed in schools during the school day.

The StarTribune reported last week that the number of new Covid-19 in Central Minnesota

has grown 12 percent since the end of June. The increase in patients has forced St. Cloud Hospital to open another intensive care unit. About half the ICU patients have Covid-19 and about 90 percent of Covid-19 patients are unvaccinated.

Stearns, Benton and Sherburne counties lag behind the statewide vaccination rate. Statewide, more than 73 percent of people age 16 and older have at least one dose. In Stearns County, the rate is 56 percent, 55.3 percent in Benton County and 57.1 percent in Sherburne County. For comparison, the vaccina-

tion rate is more than 80 percent in the Twin Cities, according to statistics from the Minnesota Department of Health.

School administrators will monitor Covid-19 cases and work with public health officials to adjust health policy planning.

In the case of significantly high transmission within a classroom or school building or the inability to appropriately staff a classroom/building, consideration will be given to temporary distance learning, the district policy states.

To be prepared if cases increase, administrators and prin-

cipals have prepared contingency plans that cover scheduling, technology needs, food service, family communication and specific distance learning plans.

In case of increased cases among staff, the availability and substitute teachers, as well as the ongoing shortage of bus drivers, could affect learning plans and force distance learning.

Details about the district’s Covid-19 plans, including the dashboard and mitigation matrix, are available at the district’s website at www.sartell.k12.mn.us/COVID19_coronavirus.

Blotter

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

Sept. 7

4:50 a.m. Vandalism. Watab Court. An officer was dispatched to a vandalism call at a resident’s home. When the officer arrived, he found a work van in the driveway with the passenger side rear window broken out. The owner had already cleaned up the glass and moved the van. The owner stated it did not appear that anything had been stolen out of the vehicle. The officer was unable to locate anything that would have been used to break the window. The officer took pictures and told the owner to call if anything is missing.

Sept. 8

7:18 a.m. Special detail. Pinecone Road N. Due to information that was received, two patrol officers were assigned to work a special detail for a planned protest. Three people were holding signs up along the street in front of the school. No issues were seen.

Sept. 9

11:33 p.m. Noise. Amber Avenue S. Two officers were dispatched to a loud music complaint. The complainant told dispatch that he had gone to the door two times, but the renter didn’t answer the door when he knocked. The officers were able to get the renter to answer the door and turn down the music. The officers noted they could hear the music as they entered the building. The renter stated he didn’t think the music was that loud and planned on going to bed so it wouldn’t be an issue. The officer told the renter of the city noise ordinance and that this was a verbal warning.

Sept. 10

11:05 a.m. Juvenile problem. First Street NE. A School Resource Officer was asked to assist with a juvenile problem at a local school. The officer was advised that a juvenile male had left school grounds and was refusing to return, and school staff was following the child. When the officer arrived, he found that the juvenile had already crossed the Sartell Bridge and on the roadway. The juvenile did not want to get into the officer’s squad, due to the amount of traffic the officer assisted him into the squad for their safety. The officer drove the juvenile back to school, the juvenile refused to go into the school but after talking for a while he did go into the school with the officer.

For additional blotter items, visit thenewsleasers.com.

Obituaries

**Darlene M. Bidinger, 83
Sartell
Dec. 1, 1937-Sept. 24, 2021**

Darlene M. Bidinger, 83, of Sartell died peacefully on Friday, Sept. 24 at Quiet Oaks Hospice House in St. Augusta.

Her funeral will be at noon Friday, Oct. 1 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell. The Rev. Ronald Weyrens will officiate and burial will be in the parish cemetery. Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, 2021 and one-hour prior to the services Friday at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Parish Prayers will be at 8 p.m. Thursday at the church.

Bidinger was born Dec. 1, 1937 in Sartell to William and Augustine (Burnett) Robatcek. She lived in Sartell all of her life. She married Eugene Bidinger on July 1, 1958 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell. She was a homemaker and also worked as a cashier for Coborn’s in Sartell for many years. Bidinger was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and a former member of the Christian Mothers. She enjoyed golfing, bowling, spending time with family and friends, playing cards, reading, word searches, cribbage and

other card games, and spending winters in Lake Havasu, Arizona. She was fun-loving, feisty, and a detailed housekeeper. But most importantly, she was caring and family was very important to her. She always remembered birthdays and anniversaries, she was a classy dresser and had a good sense of humor.

Survivors include the following: her children: Dale (Carol) Bidinger of Sartell, Pam (Scott) Gnan of Chanhassen, Jodi (Bob) Traut of Eau Claire, WI, Rory (Tiffany) Bidinger of Sartell; grandchildren, Fred and Tom Bidinger, Aaron and Alex Gnan, Alicia Carlson and Brianna Traut, Keegan, Gavin and Landyn Bidinger; great-grandchildren, Knox and Lenox Carlson, Rowan Traut, Henry “Hank” Bidinger, and two Bidinger babies on the way; brother, Bob (Audrey) Robatcek of Alexandria; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Gene on Feb. 19, 2019; siblings, Harriet (Barney) Mosena, Pat (Tom) Moore, Bill (Ginger) Robatcek and Retha Beberg.

Memorials are preferred to American Cancer Society and Quiet Oaks Hospice. A special thank you to Quiet Oaks Hospice for their wonderful care given to Darlene.

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

**Rosemary "Rose" Weiser, 74
Mesa, AZ &
formerly of Sartell
Nov. 21, 1946-Sept. 18, 2021**

Rosemary (Kimlinger) Weiser died Sept. 18, 2021 in Mesa, Arizona. Her funeral will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021 in St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell. The Rev. Ronald Weyrens will officiate and burial will be in the parish cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to the services Saturday at the church in Sartell.

Weiser was born Nov. 21, 1946 in St. Paul to Nicholas "Nick" and Genevieve "Jean" (Lucas) Kimlinger. She was the third of seven children. She attended Sacred Heart Grade School and St. Paul Johnson High School, graduating in 1964. She graduated from St. Mary's College of Nursing in Minneapolis in 1981 and had a 30-year career as a registered nurse, including 16 years at St. Cloud Hospital. She retired in 2011. In her retirement years she was a home nurse, church and nursing home volunteer. In all she did, she gave her whole heart.

Weiser married Florian "Floyd" Weiser on Dec. 20, 1985 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in St. Paul. She became a stepmother to his four sons. She loved fishing and time on the lake with Floyd. She was a wonderful wife who cared for Floyd throughout a long illness until his death in 2015.

Weiser loved her family, play-

ing cards, bingo, traveling and her career as a nurse. She was a dedicated daughter, sister, cousin, aunt, great-aunt and friend. Just like her mom, she learned to make a bed with precise corners. She started off each day making her bed carefully and gave equally precise attention to all the tasks and challenges that life presented her.

She was a strong woman who courageously overcame adversity. She was adventurous and she moved out to Mesa, Arizona in June of 2020.

Weiser will be remembered for her thoughtfulness, generosity, attentiveness and supportive encouragement to her family and friends. She had a wonderful sense of humor and a ready smile. She wanted nothing more than to know her family and friends were well and happy.

Survivors include her sister, Kathleen (Roger) Weis of St. Cloud; brothers, Michael (Julie) Kimlinger of St. Paul, Bruce (Mary) Kimlinger of North St. Paul, and Richard (Teresa) Kimlinger of Rochester; her sister-in-law, Pamela Kimlinger of Lompoc, California; her stepsons, Larry, Thomas and David Weiser, all of St. Paul; 19 nieces and nephews, including special nieces, Theresa (Greg) Kremer and Jennifer (Ruben) Zayas, both of Sartell; many grandnieces and grandnephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; her brothers, Kenneth and Melvin Kimlinger; and her stepson, Raymond Weiser.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the family of Rosemary Weiser.

Obituary and video tribute are available online: www.williamsdingmann.com.



Wieser

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

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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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contributed photo

Sophie Wieland paused for a photo in front of the world-famous Eiffel Tower during a visit to Paris. Traveling and learning about the world were just two of the multi-talented Sophie’s many interests.

Bennett

from front page

was given a green-light go. They will be installed within a couple of months, Bennett said.

Bennett was so pleased about how so many people were so generous.

“There’s been some divisiveness in this community,” he said, referring to a controversy about a study contracted by the school board to study equity issues in the school district. “This (people’s response for a good cause) is a good reminder of how if we get together, we can make some good happen in the world.”

Sophie

Bennett and Sophie were both in the Academic Extension program in second grade at Sartell’s Oak Ridge Elementary School, and that is where they met.

“She was an incredibly generous person,” Bennett said. “She spent time helping others with their homework, and she was one of the smartest people I’ve known, with a very dry sense of humor.”

The daughter of Aimee and Henry Wieland, Sophie Anne was a few months away from becoming a ninth-grader when she died.

member of our youth hockey family/Sartell community . . . A sweet girl, gone much too soon.” Condolences and tributes were also posted on Facebook pages from other youth-hockey associations far and wide.

Sophie also excelled at academics. She was a member of the Riverview Intermediate School’s Student Council, an Academic Triathlon participant, a Knowledge Bowl competitor, a member of the middle-school Tech Team and a co-founder (with Bennett) of the school’s Equity Club.

Music was another passion of Sophie’s. She played violin since she was 5 and performed in violin concerts with the St. Cloud Suzuki Studio and at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center’s nursing home, as well as at school concerts. She also played the flute in the middle-school band.

In her obituary, she was described by loved ones as “very kind, generous, thoughtful, funny, sweet and caring.”

She is survived by her parents and siblings Rachel and Jacob and many relatives.

Bennett

Bennett is the son of Gina and Andy Prose (a third-grade teacher at Riverview Intermediate School). He has one younger sister, Harper.

Like Sophie, Bennett excelled at a wide variety of disciplines. He runs cross-country, loved to play cribbage, enjoys reading and gets good grades. His favorite subject – “by far” – he said, is social studies, though he also finds history fascinating.

Another deeply felt interest is school equity. He and Sophie co-founded the middle school’s Equity Club, an ongoing effort to reach out to students and to promote equity so all students feel welcome and valued.

“We want to educate students about equity and how it impacts them,” he said. “We want to make sure school is a safe place for students who feel they don’t fit in.”

Bennett recently applied to become a member of the school district’s upcoming “Educational Equity and Student Experience Committee.” Half of the members of that committee will be students, he noted. The purpose of the

committee will be to study equity issues and to come up with recommendations to the school board to develop ways that can ensure equity for each and every student of every color, creed, culture and religion. The hope is to strengthen an all-embracing, inclusive learning experience in every school in the district.

Bennett’s goal is to find a job through which he can help; he is leaning toward a career in law.

Bennett said if he could talk to Sophie, this is what he would tell her: “You made a lot of difference and changed a lot of lives.”

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The 15th Annual Eugene J. McCarthy LECTURE

Conscience & Courage in Public Life

U.S. Senator Tina Smith

October 14, 2021 7:30 p.m.

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Stephen B. Humphrey Theatre

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Paul & Patricia Hamilton

Listening session reveals need for more counseling services

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

The need for more and a wider range of counseling services topped the list of issues raised during the first listening session organized by the Sartell-St. Stephen school district’s new Educational Equity and Student Experience committee.

About 30 people, mostly adults, gathered at the high school’s Learning Stairs to share experiences and opinions during the 45-minute session led by Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover on Sept. 20.

The session’s topic, Student Support Services and Mental Health, was chosen by the committee after its first meeting on Sept. 13. Future sessions

will focus on other topics developed by the committee as it pursues priorities to deal with the district’s equity challenges. Student mental health is the top issue for schools across the country, Ridlehoover said as he introduced the session topic. Speakers seemed to agree.

Opinions shared by session participants included:

- Counselors need time to engage with students on an informal basis, not just when there’s a crisis. There are three counselors for about 1,400 high school students.
- Counselors are, by training, focused on academics and deal with testing, academic progress and post-secondary education. Providing mental-health therapy is not a focus. Counselors need outside

resources. Where do counselors go for help?

- There’s a stigma attached to visiting the counseling office. The office is adjacent to the commons/cafeteria and other students see who is coming and going.
- How can counselors and other adults touch base with students who aren’t seeking help and also have time to follow up and check in with families?
- There’s a need for a more diverse counseling staff.
- The curriculum needs a mental-health component that focuses on kindness and character and starts with the youngest students.

In summing up the discussion, Ridlehoover said “we want to support our kids

when they are in our buildings so they don’t feel they are alone.”

Forming the Educational Equity and Student Experience committee was the district’s response to addressing equity issues following a controversial audit last winter. Although the district ended its relationship with the consultants who conducted the audit, the survey results revealed depression and pressure to excel concerned students.

The committee has 90 members. 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. Committee membership is approximately 50 percent students, 20 percent staff and 30 percent parents/guardians/district residents.

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 next equity committee meeting will be from 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 11. The next listening session will be Monday, Oct. 18, with a topic determined at the Oct. 11 committee meeting.

Sartell hires Krueger as parks supervisor

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell now has a Parks Department supervisor, Tony Krueger, who will start his new job Oct. 3.

Krueger is currently one of the maintenance workers for the Sartell Public Works Department. His appointment as parks supervisor was approved by the Sartell City Council at its Sept. 27 meeting.

Selecting a supervisor is just one more step in Sartell’s plan to have a full-fledged Parks Department for the first time in its history. For many decades, the city’s Public Works Department, volunteers and partnerships maintained the city’s growing number of parks. Earlier this year, the city decided it’s time to form a Parks Department and hire a supervisor to manage the job. There are now 29 parks in the city that include public parks, neighborhood parks and parks created by organizations such as the Sartell Lions and Rotary clubs.

Before joining the Sartell Public Works Department, Krueger worked at the University of Minnesota, Morris, where he managed facilities



contributed photo

Tony Krueger has been hired by Sartell to be its Parks Department supervisor, the first in the city’s history. Krueger is currently a member of the Sartell Public Works Department. He will start his new job Oct. 3.

and grounds for the college. He was also the school’s head cross-country coach.

“The city is confident that Tony will be able to create a long-term vision for the Parks Department and use his skills and experience from the University of Minnesota, Morris, to build upon the city’s current park system,” said Sartell’s engagement director, Nikki Sweetser, in a public statement.

Krueger said he is eager to

start the new job.

In a statement he said this: “I am very excited for the development of the parks department for the city of Sartell and for the opportunity to work with our staff to maintain and improve our parks system. I feel very fortunate to supervise such a committed and capable staff, and I look forward to strengthening relationships with various community groups who serve and utilize our parks.”

City announces ‘flat tax’ for next year

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell city budget for the coming year is remarkable for its “flat tax” rate, which means many, if not most, residents will not see a property-tax increase unless their market value increases.

The city council approved the preliminary budget at its Sept. 13 meeting, and the council will hold a public hearing on the budget and levy at its Dec. 13 meeting. Residents will get their preliminary tax notices in the mail in November.

Council member Tim Elness praised the city’s department heads and staff for keeping expenses (and taxes) as low as possible.

The general budget is \$6,248,000, an increase of about \$644,000 (11.48 percent) from this year’s budget. The preliminary levy for 2022 is an estimated \$7,880,000, an increase of about 6.6 percent from this year.

The city’s net tax capacity is expected to increase 6.58 percent for 2022. That net tax capacity increased 7.6 percent last year and 4.34 percent in

2021.

The major areas of the budget are public safety (55 percent), general government (17 percent), public works (16 percent) and culture and recreation (12 percent).

The city’s general fund levy is increasing to pay for additional employee positions and for wage increases in all departments. Also increasing are the police and fire department expenditure funds to enhance safety and to prepare for future capital expenditures.

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.

Monday, Oct. 4
Sartell Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Bernick’s Parking Lot, 1109 First St. S, Sartell.
Sartell Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., contact Stewart Giffin at 651-261-4272 regarding meeting details.

Tuesday, Oct. 5
Memory Writers group develops topics and turns in stories. 10 a.m.-noon, Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud. Contact Jan Sorell for more info at jsorrell97@gmail.com. Free for museum members, nominal fee for non-members.

Wednesday, Oct. 6
St. Stephen City Council, 6:30 p.m., St. Stephen City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave SE.

Thursday, Oct. 7
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, Oct. 8
Conversations on Race and Spirituality, sponsored by Bahai Faith, 7 p.m., second and fourth Fridays. Bahaicentralmn.org.

Saturday, Oct. 9
St. Stephen Fire Department Open House, 2 Sixth Ave. SE, St. Stephen. Call 320-251-0964 or email ststephenclerk@midcont-work.com for more information.
Craft Vendors, Baked Goods, BBQ, Free Massages and More! 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Freeport Community Center, 307 Seventh

St. SE, Freeport.
Dalí String Quartet, 7:30 p.m. Atonement Lutheran Church, 1144 29th Ave N., St. Cloud.

Monday, Oct. 11
Sartell Farmers’ Market, 3-6 p.m., Bernick’s Parking Lot, 1109 First St. S, Sartell.
Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

Tuesday, Oct. 12
Sartell Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell.
Frozen Meal Distribution, 1-3 p.m., Catholic Charities Emergency Services, 157 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud.

Wednesday, Oct. 13
St. Cloud Schools Board of Education Agenda Planning Committee, 8 a.m., District 742 Administration Office, 1201 S. Second St., Waite Park.
Breakfast Club, 9-10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S. Free for members, nominal fee for nonmembers.
St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., visit stjoseph-chamber@gmail.com to register.
“Saving Federalism: Do We Have a Representative Government?” League of Women Voters, 1-3 p.m. via Zoom. Visit www.lwvsca.org for more information.

St Joseph Y2K Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave NE.

Thursday, Oct. 14
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, Oct. 15
St. Cloud Singles Club Dance, 8 p.m.-midnight. Nominal fee. Moose Lodge, 1300 Third St. N., Waite Park.



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Front row (left to right): Brian Quaal – captain (28 years), Chris Hoeschen – captain (14 years), Gene Skaj – assistant chief (39 years), Jeff Drais – fire chief (25 years), Jeff Blenkush – assistant chief (25 years) and Steve Trobec – captain (18 years); middle row: Al Vouk (49 years), Lauren Hoeschen (12 years), Jason Trobec (16 years), Jason Paggen (23 years), John Knettel (14 years), Jeff Supan (28 years), Andy DeYaeger (3 years); and back row: Ralph Barhorst (48 years), Dave Trobec (22 years), Joe Gordon (12 years), Tim Borgert (6 years), Peter Schumer (3 years), Brad Kostreba (6 years), Peter Kroll (1 year), Justin Terhaar (5 years), Jim Schumer (44 years). Missing: Jeff Jefferson – captain (16 years) and Stuart Koshiol (4 years).

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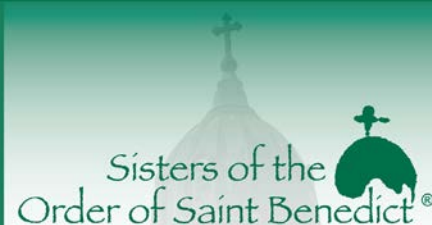
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Randy Giles
Assistant Chief, 25 years



Dennis Ertl
25 years



James Rieland
Fire Marshall, 22 years



Kellen Hemmesch
20 years



Lucas Dingmann
Assistant Chief, 17 years



Ryan Fitzthum
Captain, 14 years



Ben Kockler
Training Officer, 14 years



Brady Olmscheid
13 years



Dave Hengel
11 years



Mitch Kockler
11 years



Rick Lyon
Captain, 11 years



Brian Heim
Captain, 9 years



Matt Fox
8 years



Adam Imholte
Safety Officer, 8 years



Luke Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer, 7 years



Cory Eggert
6 years



Tim Elness
6 years



Austin Guggenberger
6 years



Thomas Keehr
6 years



Kyle Laabs
6 years



Chris Morse
6 years



Pat Muntifering
6 years



Rob Johnson
3 years



Carey Daku
1 years



Rusty Deters
1 year



Jason Doering,
1 year



Jenni Pomije
1 year



Tyler Sparks
1 year

Not Pictured: Sam Lanzrath, 1 year.

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U11045 (07/2021)

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Time: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Time: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 25

Time: 4-7 p.m.

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Phone: 320-363-1313

photos by Carolyn Bertsch

Smiles all around
(Above) Sartell Tennis Team members (left to right) Caitlyn Burns, Reagan Hengel and Greta Crandall, all 14 and of Sartell, walk in the Sept. 17 Homecoming parade. The tennis team won a dance contest in the Homecoming pep fest rally earlier in the day giving them even more to smile about! (At right) Marius Sampson, 11, of St. Cloud, walks in the Homecoming parade with his mom, Jen, a fourth-grade teacher at Riverview Intermediate School.

Decals

from front page

thin blue line flag decal. The petition was signed by 2,150 people. Kosloski's complaint, they said, was much ado about nothing. Hundreds of comments were posted on the Sartell Police Department's Facebook thanking the police, praising them for the good works they do, offering support and gratitude and agreeing the thin blue line decal exemplifies the selfless work police do and the dangers they face every day. Those who opposed the decal, said some commentators on the Facebook page, were whiners and anarchists and the controversy should never have been an issue. One post said the police department was "bowing to the Black Lives Matter" movement. Another claimed Black Lives Matter is "a Marxist organization that thrives on chaos, manipulation and destruction in order to attain their evil agenda."

Kosloski began receiving online threats. A 1917 graduate of Sartell High School, she earned a degree in communications studies and studio art from Concordia College, Moorhead. She is a member of the "Envisioned Quality of All" group in Sartell and works at a restaurant in St. Joseph.

The Sartell Police Department, in a recent

contributed graphic

This is the new decal adopted by the Sartell Police Department. The previous "blue line flag" decal, which many found offensive, was discontinued.

posting on its Facebook, stated it agreed to replace the decal with a new one, even though there was absolutely no intent to adopt that decal with any kind of overtones of racism or hatred.

However, opponents of the thin blue line flags and logos point out that however well-intentioned it may have been at first, it has become a symbol of racism. It was flaunted by rioters at the insurrection at the nation's Capitol building Jan. 6 and at the White Supremacist demonstrations in Charlottesville some years ago. Therefore, opponents argue, such a tainted symbol should not be attached to police cars, paid for by the public, when many citizens view it as an affront to decency, morality and democracy.

According to the Sartell Police Department, those decals, the former one and the new one, are "to remember the officers that have given their lives in the line of duty. There

will be no confusion about that or what it stands for and will display that with pride."

The statement, signed by Chief Jim Hughes and the Sartell Police Department, says that "This decision to remove (decal) was not an easy one," but it was made for the safety of officers, support staff, reserve officers and firefighters, as well as for the safety of residents.

The statement continues: "We want our community to feel safe to come to our building to report a crime, register for permits, get advice and guidance from a police officer or even use the Safe Room to escape an abuser they are fleeing, and this (dropping the decal) is the best course of action to keep this intact."

Kosloski stated she is happy the police department decided to remove the decals. She also praised the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union and a group called TakeActionMN for helping in her efforts to get the decals removed.

PUBLIC NOITICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING • SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748
AUG. 16, 2021 • SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL

The regular school board meeting of Independent School District 748 was called to order at 5 p.m. by Chair Jeremy Snoberger. Members present: Snoberger, chair; Jason Nies, vice chair; Amanda Byrd, clerk; Matt Moehrle, treasurer; Patrick Marushin, director; Tricia Meling, director; and Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover, superintendent. Members absent: none.

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

During the public comment opportunity 10 members of the community addressed the school board. Hannah Rivard, student, spoke on the topic of masking in schools; Cole Engstrom-Bolstad, 613 First St. N, spoke on the topic of LGBTQ issues in the school; Bennett Prose, student, spoke on the topic of masking and the equity committee; Elliott Dingman, student, spoke on the topic of equity; Carmen Honken, 4629 Pine Point Road, spoke on the topic of parental choice with masking; Kevin Jenner, 717 21st Ave. N, spoke on the topic of health and safety policy 2021-2022; Rochelle Dyer, 817 Third Ave. N, spoke on the topic of code of ethics; Eva Hesse, student, spoke on the topic of representation of students; Kenneth Dumpprope, 321 19th Ave. N, spoke on the topic of masks; Christine Jemming, 220 15th Ave. NE, spoke on the topic of masks.

A motion was made by Moehrle and seconded by Nies to APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS A.4.a – A.4.c AS PRESENTED BELOW. All in favor. Motion carried.

- A.4.a. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on July 19, 2021
- Minutes of the special school board meeting held on Aug. 2, 2021
- Minutes of the school board work session held on Aug. 9, 2021

A.4.b Checks in the amount of \$888,563.37 as presented:	
General Fund	503,831.80
Food Service Fund	129.57
Transportation Fund	21,245.06
Community Service Fund	14,516.31
Capital Expenditure Fund	335,911.79
Scholarship Trust	9,300.00
Activity Accounts	219.43
Internal Service Fund	3,409.41
Check numbers 181654 – 181798	

ACHs in the amount of \$986.08 as presented:	
General Fund	631.15
Activity Accounts	354.93
ACH numbers 212200006-212200010	

Receipts in the amount of \$1,507,376.80 as presented:	
General Fund	971,996.11
Food Service Fund	389,830.05
Community Service Fund	55,043.71
Building Fund	71.10
Debt Service Fund	78,439.79
Activity Accounts	860.00
Internal Service Fund	11,136.04
Receipts 49103 - 49182	

Wire transfers in the amount of \$1,193,606.98 as presented:	
General Fund	833,575.70
Food Service Fund	5,885.12
Transportation Fund	3,279.37
Community Service Fund	33,737.45
Capital Expenditure Fund	13,593.96
Building Fund	-4,960.71
Internal Service Fund	308,496.09
Wire transfers 202122033 - 202122091	

A.4.c Accept the resignations of Roxanne Chandler, SMS, para, 8/12/21; Dorothy Karls, SMS, food service worker, 7/19/21; Kari Tuomi, RIS, para, 8/6/21; Heidi Webster, OREL, speech language pathologist, 8/12/21; Sarah Zehowski, PMPS, cashier, 8/4/21.

Superintendent Report: Dr. Jeff Ridlehoover
Ridlehoover reported on happenings around the district. More than 68 applications were received for the Equity and Student Experience Committee. There is a lot of optimism and hope from the current applicants. The board will be given monthly updates on the progress of the committee. All buildings have started planning for next school year, which has included receiving good viewpoints and perspectives during visits with parents and staff members. A meeting was held with Police Chief Jim Hughes in regards to

safety. Treasurer Moehrle and the superintendent had the opportunity to meet with students from the High School to discuss the upcoming year. Sabre Splash planning for incoming ninth-grade students happened last week and fall sports started today. Activities Director Ryan Hauge has recently accepted a position at the Rocori School District. A plan for a seamless transition has been created as the search for a new activities director starts.

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

COVID-19 / Safe-Learning Plan Report:
Ridlehoover and Director of Human Resources Krista Durrwachter provided an update regarding COVID-19 and the Safe-Learning Plan for 2021-22.

The Board took a 10-minute recess at 6:16 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:26 p.m.

Public Data Request Report:
Durrwachter reported on the Public Data Request process and those received by the district.

School Board Committee Report:
Director Marushin and Director Meling reported on the virtual conference presented by MSBA they both attended.

A motion was made by Marushin and seconded by Nies to APPROVE #1-21:

New Employees/Changes:
Nicole Ackerman, OREL, para, \$18.03/hour, RIV, S2, 6.5 hours/day, replacing Michaela VanHeel, 8/30/2021; Carey Carstensen, SHS, ninth-grade volleyball, \$3,990 (9.5 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Katie Young, 8/16/2021; Christine Duininck, SHS, food service worker, \$16.20/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Zachary Ewald, 8/19/2021; Sam Engel, SHS, assistant girls swim, \$4,184 (9.5 percent), BA, Step C (\$44,045), replacing Lyndsey Welch, 8/16/2021; Caleb Forberg, SHS, ninth-grade boys soccer, \$3,507 (8.35 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Kristi Tomczyk, 8/16/2021; Joye Haider, OREL, cafeteria worker, \$16.20/hour, RI, S1, 2.5 hours/day, replacing Tiana Jestus, 8/19/2021; Terri Johnson, OREL, para, \$22.31/hour, RIV, Step 6, 4 hours/day, new position, 8/30/2021; Esraa Kadhém, RIS, cashier, \$16.20/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, new position, 8/19/2021; Lukas Majerle, SHS, assistant boys soccer, \$3,990 (9.5 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Klause Hume, 8/16/2021; Stacey Oster-

holt, SMS, cashier, \$16.20/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Deb Raveling, 8/19/2021; Julie Peabody, SMS, food service worker, \$16.20/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Jan Gronseth, 8/19/2021; Tracey Robak, SHS, food service worker, \$16.20/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, Replacing Sunday Chan, 8/19/2021; Michelle Sand, SMS, cashier, \$16.20/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Jeannie Klehr, 8/19/2021; Paige Serbus, SHS, ninth-grade volleyball, \$3,990 (9.5 percent), BA, Step A (\$42,002), replacing Riley Marod, 8/16/2021; Jeannie Stelten, SMS, cashier, \$16.20/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Julie Peabody, 8/19/2021; Michaela VanHeel, PMPS, para, \$18.03/hour, RIV, S2, 6.25 hours/day, replacing Cailin Justin, 8/30/2021; Nicole Wasierski, SHS, receptionist, \$19.43/hour, RII, S1, 8 hours/day, 202 days/year, replacing Stacy Clitty, 8/30/2021.

Leaves of Absence:
Cheryl Freihammer, RIS, head cook, LOA, 21-22 school year (intermittent leave); Cailin Justin, PMPS, para, LOA, 21-22 school year; Peggy Kourajian, SMS, accompanist, LOA, 21-22 school year; Jennifer Richason, SMS, grade 8, LOA, 9/21/21-11/22/21.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by

Moehrle and seconded by Meling to APPROVE TRUTH IN TAXATION (TNT) TENTATIVE HEARING DATE FOR DEC. 20, 2021, AT 6:00 PM LOCATED AT SARTELL HIGH SCHOOL. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Nies and seconded by Moehrle TO APPROVE THE 2021-2022 ISD 748 SAFE-LEARNING PLAN DRAFT B. On a roll-call vote, the following voted in favor: Nies, Moehrle, Byrd, Snoberger. The following voted against: Marushin, Meling. Motion carried 4-2.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:
Future Policy Committee Meeting – Tuesday, Aug. 24 @ District Service Center – 4 p.m.
Future Board Work Session – Wednesday, Sept. 8 @ Sartell High School - 6:30 p.m.
Future Regular Board Meeting – Monday, Sept. 20 @ Sartell High School - 6:30 p.m.

Committee Assignments were reviewed.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:54 p.m. was made by Nies and seconded by Marushin. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Amanda Byrd, clerk

Publish: Oct. 1, 2021

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

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Opinion

Our View

Critical thinking is critical, now more than ever

It's not easy staying positive during times of struggle. And it's even more difficult to stay positive when a community feels like it's fighting against itself. When opinions divide us and we stop listening to each other, that's when we all need to take a step back and reflect inwardly. Not on our own beliefs, but what is believed by those with whom we disagree.

We need to start using our ability as humans to think critically. What does that mean? Well, it means stepping outside your own viewpoint for a moment to try to critically understand where someone else is coming from. Let another viewpoint sink in for a minute; you might be surprised what you discover. That doesn't mean to abandon all your ideals or morals, not in the least. But listening and thinking critically about the information you receive could perhaps change your perspective if you quiet your argument down for even just a moment. It could change an argument into a conversation.

There is no doubt that morals, laws and religion lead us to what we feel is right or wrong. And these morals or convictions spark passion in us. Sometimes that passion comes out in anger and frustration with those who refuse to respond to what we believe is a well-thought out argument. But keep in mind, that same passion lives inside those with opposing views. They too feel they are right and valid. Judgments are easy to make. In fact, it's a lot easier to judge than it is to sit down and listen to the views of the people with whom you don't agree. However, being able to do so shows strength, maturity and a desire to communicate effectively.

However, there are times when an opinion is no longer an opinion but an insult to a certain race or religion. When it becomes personal and filled with no factual arguments, when the views are based on biases and fears, that's when teaching becomes so important. It's not always apparent to the privileged crowd when an opinion stated is a racial slur, or when judgments and assumptions are being made based on the color of someone's skin. When this occurs, it is the job of the allies to stand up and show through their critical-thinking skills how those judgments hold no merit and how much damage they cause to a community, to a race and most importantly, to our children.

Opinions are not wrong to have, and we should be able to have conversations with those who see things differently than us. Just make sure you've taken time to critically think about what you believe because it might be less of an opinion and more of a biased, uneducated and damaging judgment.

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.

You're never too old to believe in fairytales

Leanne Loy
Editor



great benefits package and a knot in our stomachs on Sunday nights. Truthfully, that is some people's dream and it's not a bad one to have. But if you find yourself waking up every morning thinking about that one thing you should have done but never even made the attempt to try, maybe it's time to take some advice from a fairytale or two. And I don't mean randomly belting out a song to show you're really inspired and serious about taking the next step. Of course, there's nothing wrong with that. If it floats your boat, I won't judge.

I was watching a Disney movie with my daughter the other day and it became very apparent to me that we still encourage our kids to believe in the impossible, as we should. But then it dawned on me, too, that at some point in our lives, that narrative changes. When I was little, I was asked, like most kids were, what I wanted to be when I grew up. It was cute when I said an actress or a singer or even that time when I wanted to

be a veterinarian. But as I got older, it wasn't so cute to have those dreams; it was time to start thinking seriously about my future and the question went from, what do you want to be, to, how are you going to make a living?

Reality does have to play a part in all of this, and I do think it's important to teach our kids both to dream and to work hard to make those dreams come true. But if we can't lead by example, then what are we really teaching them? I'm not going to say that one day I watched a Disney film, woke up the next morning, quit my job and went back to school. But I will say I took a leap of faith because I realized I was saying things to my kids that I wasn't myself listening to, and now I'm sitting here getting paid to write, a dream the 13-year-old me thought was impossible.

It seems logical for us adults to get wrapped up into our stresses and our responsibilities, and honestly, that's sometimes OK. But remember, if someday you find yourself getting wrapped up in a fairytale and it reminds you of a passion that's been asleep for a while, embrace it. You never know what impossible things could happen.

What offends them they destroy – or kill

Dennis Dalman
Reporter



expressed their appalled reactions to the destruction.

The rampage began, and how hard they worked to destroy those Buddhas! It took a long time: blasting mortar shells at them, drilling holes in the statutes in which to place explosives, using anti-tank mines to weaken the rock. They worked, they sweated, they laughed as they pulverized the art into huge heaps of rubble, leaving empty cliff niches where the Buddhas had been.

These ignorant obliterations of art works, assaults by barbarians against the achievements of civilizations, have happened throughout history – the destruction of the great library in Alexandria, Egypt in 642 A.D., the barbaric violence against cities and people throughout the world in every decade, every century. More recently, in Iraq and Syria, museums and the art works they housed were ripped to pieces, smashed, utterly destroyed by rebel factions, including notorious ISIS.

The twisted rationale is always this: What offends us we destroy or kill.

The very area where those statues were obliterated was a rare, remarkable place in modern-day Afghanistan. It was the place where

the country's first woman governor took office, the country's first girls' cycling team was formed as well as a women's ski club and the first café operated by a woman. The university there held more women students than men.

Those gains for women will likely soon evaporate. What a catastrophe that the Taliban have re-taken that country after 20 years of the American presence. Women and children (especially girls) are trembling with terror throughout Afghanistan, fearing what will become of them now.

President Joe Biden ordered American troops out of Afghanistan last month, proving once again there is no such thing as a good ending to a bad war. We simply could not stay there forever and ever; we could not impose a "democracy" on that splintered tribal-based country.

The Taliban now claim they will not be retaliatory or harsh in their new rule, and yet their highest ranks include some of the most rigid believers, ruthless rebels – the ones likely to think, "What offends us we destroy or kill."

The only hope, a slender hope, is that many of the women and girls of that tribal country (many men too) found a measure of peace, freedom and dignity during the past two decades. Let us hope that experience of partial freedom, short but sweet, will help them endure the dark days ahead as they patiently pine for a safer, brighter future.

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

Letters to the editor

Reader urges to move forward with equity, equality conversations

Hannah Kosloski
Sartell

During the last few months, our community and school district has felt like a battle field. We have orange shirts and blue shirts. We have Facebook groups galore. We have signs and advertisements and folks who are screaming at school board meetings. There have been fights about the definition of equity, masking protocols, school board funding and everything else under the sun. Is this really who we want to be? Is this really the example we want to send to our kids?

I know most of you know what “side” of things I am on. I believe in social and educational equity. I believe in the vaccine, masking protocols and the science from the CDC. I think our kids deserve a chance to live in a place that is safe and welcoming for everyone, regardless of

who they are. My dream would be to live in a world that accepts and celebrates people because of their differences. A world where we value the importance of community and connection – reaching out to learn and grow together. A place where kids shouldn’t have to be afraid to be queer or Black or trans or neuro-divergent. A place where I can drive around Sartell and attend community meetings and not feel the hatred, intolerance and general daunting notion that our community is going to tear itself apart.

At the last school board meeting, there were a few students who spoke up about their experiences and their needs. They talked about what they’re witnessing and feeling in the community. I want to give a round of applause to every student who spoke. It’s so important for all of us to be invested in our communities. They are our source of love, assistance, family, friendship, church,

hope and humanity, So why are we tearing ourselves apart?

When I left the school board meeting last week, a woman behind me just looked at me and said “I can tell you and I don’t have the same beliefs. You should go see a psychologist.” As the school board wrapped up the meetings, I heard someone yell “sell your houses!” On my own Facebook page, people have told me to “move out of the country,” and to “look out in case something happens to you or your family.” In school, our kids are calling each other “terrorists” and are throwing around the N-word, the R-word, and the F-word strictly as oppressive slurs in order to harass, bully and torment each other. There are ads being sent to our whole community threatening to “take our school and school board back,” and parents who are upset that kids are being asked to participate in discussions about things

happening in their own schools. What are we doing to each other?

I’m not going to pretend like I can sit up on this high horse either. I know I have done more than my fair share of Facebook arguing. I know there are plenty of times I have probably responded with apathy and intolerance. I don’t think any of us can pretend like we haven’t. But that doesn’t mean we have to keep doing it.

Right now, we are really only showing our kids how to be close-minded, intolerant and divisive. We are showing them how to be bullies. We are telling them they don’t have a voice or a say in the matter when we drown them out at school board meetings and dismiss their experiences as “only a minority” or “that it didn’t happen at all.” Instead of teaching our kids kindness, critical thinking, empathy and understanding, we are introducing them to a world of violence, hatred, ignorance, misinformation

and oppression. And yes, that might be the state of the world (now and for the time being), but we don’t have to be like this? We don’t have to treat each other like this.

I am excited for our community to continue forward with conversations of equity and equality in order to create a learning space that is accessible for all. As a recent Kids Over Politics post said, we want to make sure everyone has “individualized attention and resources to help them learn.” We all have the same goal. We really only want one thing. So let’s stop trying to defund our schools, fire school board members, harass our teachers, ban books, advocate for cameras in the classroom, bully each other and send messages to our kids that we aren’t listening, don’t care and refuse to see them for who they are. We can do better than that. We ARE better than that. Can we please move forward?

Reader takes offense regarding ‘hypocrisy of standing for freedom’

Kay Steiner
Sartell

I take umbrage on what is your idea of “hypocrisy of standing for freedom,” (the Our View from Sept. 17, 2021) Where is the data that immunity doesn’t work?

You bring in so-called “freedom of women to end their baby in the womb.” Another name for that is murder. What has that to do with the flu?

Wearing a mask while in school when there is no data that a mask will protect you

from anything is pure cruelty to students and faculty. More like what you would expect out of a Sharid regime. As a professional, I would think you would be appreciative of data, would make things more scientific than the fear-monger doctor Anthony Fauci, who can’t make up his mind how many masks will keep us safe. No data.

Having gotten the flu three times while unsuspectingly hanging around people who have gained an appreciable amount of immunity. Of course, I don’t hang around anyone who gets a flu shot

anymore. Not even a mask will protect you from the flu they are carrying around. So finally, let’s support freedom. You get a shot if you want, but leave me my freedom of choice to stay away from you at least for two weeks after you get your shot.

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In early 2021, the stock market was launched into the spotlight as unexpected companies’ value skyrocketed.

If the craze got you excited and interested in investing, you should know what you’re getting into before making a financial mistake. One of the essential things to consider before buying stocks is to ensure your current finances are solid. Make sure you can comfortably spend a por-

tion on investments after meeting your monthly obligations and padding the savings account. It’s vital to maintain an emergency fund that can last a few months if you face a medical emergency or lose your job. With your finances in order, here are a few valuable tips to make sound decisions during your investment journey.

DECIDE HOW YOU WILL INVEST

Investing in the stock market can be challenging if you’re unfamiliar with the process. An easy way to get started with confidence is by hiring an expert to offer guidance. They can listen to your goals and intentions about

becoming an investor and choose attractive options with positive earning potential. With your finances professionally managed, it can be easier to take more minor risks on your own with smartphone apps or other investing platforms.

KNOW THE RISKS

The excitement of a stock doing well can make it enticing to sell quickly or hold on to see how the value fluctuates. Both processes hold their own risks as the price can drop or increase in an instant. You should also consider how difficult or easy it will be to cash out on

the investment if it reaches a suitable amount or it begins to drop. Since stocks can dramatically change due to corporate decisions, company controversy and market conditions, determine a reaction plan as the values vary.

RESEARCH THE MARKET

With the help of an expert, stay on top of the market by researching articles, reading about investment tips and bouncing ideas off other investors. In stocks, wealth is knowledge. Understanding the risks and rewards of particular investments can be the difference between regret and flourishing.



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