

# Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Jan. 7, 2022  
Volume 27, Issue 1  
Est. 1995

## Town Crier

### KofC Free-throw Contest set Saturday, Jan. 22

A free-throw competition for children ages 9-14 will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22 at St. Francis Xavier School gymnasium, 219 Second St. N., Sartell. This annual event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Bishop Trobec Council #5276, serving the Sartell and St. Stephen communities. All contestants from the local level are recognized for their participation in the event and the winners at each level receive a trophy. Winners at each level receive a trophy. Participants register at the event and must have written consent and age verification from a parent or guardian. Please contact Jake Schneider at (320) 761-7143 or jakeschneider34@gmail.com with any questions.

### Heartland Hospice seeks volunteers

Heartland Hospice is looking for caring and dedicated people with an interest in serving terminally ill patients and their families in St. Joseph, Sartell, St. Stephen and the surrounding areas. Volunteers provide services such as friendly visiting, pet visits, musical enrichment, art enrichment, Veteran to Veteran visits and clerical services. Volunteer classes are available to fit each person's schedule. Our priority and commitment to our patients and families is to provide safe, quality care. We believe having a vaccinated workforce is one way to deliver that promise. For more information, call Keshia Kettler at Heartland Hospice at 320-654-1136.

### Meals on Wheels looking for drivers

Become a meals on Wheels driver! Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud is in great need of drivers in the St. Cloud area. Meals are picked up at Whitney Senior Center and drivers deliver 8-12 meals on average. Volunteers practice non-contact delivery and deliver a week's worth of meals to each senior. Meals are delivered Mondays and Wednesdays with a pick-up time between 10:30-11:45am. If you would like to volunteer as a driver, visit [www.ccstcloud.org/volunteer](http://www.ccstcloud.org/volunteer) or [volunteer@ccstcloud.org](mailto:volunteer@ccstcloud.org) or 320-650-1645 for more information.

## Tragedy brings community together

by Leanne Loy  
[editor@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:editor@thenewsleaders.com)

It's always an amazing thing to see a community come together to help one of their own. On Aug. 23, 2021, the Chung family, Sartell residents and business owners, experienced a terrible tragedy. While vacationing in Michigan, Duc Chung and his two sons were out boating with friends. While docked at a sandbar, Chung dived off the boat and went headfirst into the sandbar, breaking his neck and four vertebrae.

Conscious but badly injured, Chung knew enough to not allow his friends and family to move his body back onto

the boat. They stayed there in the water with him until help could arrive. A helicopter got there first but the wind from the blades made for unsafe, choppy waters so they had to wait for a rescue boat to come and retrieve him.

He was taken to the hospital in Michigan where he immediately was admitted into surgery. After surgery, Chung spent two months in the ICU unit. He has since been transported to Golden Valley where he is in critical care. Currently, Duc can move his fingers a little, his left arm, and his toes which is hopeful. The family said while they have seen some progress, Chung is

Tragedy • page 7



contributed photo

The Chung family receives a surprise from Santa and his helpers, courtesy of Sartell resident Ashely Knott (not pictured) who organized donations for the family and had them delivered by Santa himself and some helpers. From left to right are Santa; Hanh Le; George, 8; Hoa, 12; Rustin Deters, as the elf; and his friend the Jester.

## Marushin elected school board chair

by Mike Knaak  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

Sartell-St. Stephen school board members elected Patrick Marushin at its Jan. 3 meeting to chair the body for next year.

Marushin, first elected to the board in 2014, replaces Jeremy Snoberger as chair. Other officers elected at the board's yearly organizational meeting were Matt Moehrle as vice chair, Snoberger as clerk and Tricia Meling as treasurer.

The board voted to keep

their salaries at the current levels. The board chair and treasurer earn \$3,400 a year and the other board members earn \$3,000 a year. Stipend for special and other designated meetings will be \$50 for meetings that last one to two hours, \$100 for meetings lasting two to four hours and \$400 for meetings lasting longer than six hours.

Monthly board meetings will continue to be the third Monday of the month except when that day is a holiday. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. except during

June, July and August when the board meets at 5 p.m.

The board meets at the District Service Center, 212 Third Ave. N. The May and December meetings are scheduled for Sartell High School.

In past years, the board met at least once at the St. Stephen City Hall. Those meetings were moved when facilities shut down for Covid-19. Board member Jason Nies asked about the possibility of conducting a meeting in St. Stephen during 2022.

In the coming year, Marushin said he'd like to see more staff presentations at board meetings showcasing what's going on in the schools.

Following the board meeting, the board convened a working session to discuss calendar options for the next two school years.

Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover presented a draft calendar that includes one less student contact day to give teachers time for preparation

Board • page 7

## Dietz to lead Sartell Boy Scout Troop



contributed photo

Eric Dietz, far right, was officially installed as Sartell Troop 211 Boy Scout Scoutmaster at a ceremony held in St. Cloud Riverside Park, an event that included lots of downhill snow-sledding for the Scout members. From left to right are previous Troop 211 Scoutmasters (in the order in which they served) Tom Fenlason, Chuck Rose, Kevin Schatz, Ben Amundson and Dietz, the new one.

by Dennis Dalman  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

At one time, not too many years ago, the Eric and Trina Dietz family members of Sartell were all deeply involved in scouting.

Trina, the mother, was a troop leader for the Girl Scouts, of which daughter Hattie was a member. The oldest son, Matthew was a Cub Scout, who is now a Boy Scout, working on his Eagle Badge project; and youngest son Alex is now also a Boy Scout. Eric, the father, who has been a long-time Scouting den leader, was named to be the new Scout leader for Sartell Boy Scout Troop 111.

Eric, a graduate of St. Cloud State University with a degree

Troop • page 2



# After half a century, gnome comes home

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

The gnome came home – a little rough from wear but just in time for Christmas.

When the gnome was just 5 years old, it disappeared 45 years ago from the yard of Jack and Suzanne Toftey, Sartell residents who lived in St. Cloud at that time. The name of the 4.5-foot-tall gnome is “Nisse,” which is Norwegian for “gnome.”

Once upon a time, almost 50 years ago, the Tofteys decided to make a gnome. Once it was completed, the jolly figurine was placed in their yard in St. Cloud long before they moved to Sartell. But one morning five years later, Suzanne looked out a home window and noticed

with a shock the gnome was gone (almost certainly stolen). The Tofteys gave up on ever seeing him again.

Nisse had been crafted from plywood by Jack, and Suzanne had painted him in a colorful way complete with gray boots, green jacket, white beard, a big red pointy hat, and a yellow sign Nisse was holding with the word “Velkommen” on it, which means “Welcome” in Norwegian. The Tofteys both have long been craft hobbyists; Jack was also the athletic director at St. Cloud Tech High School for years.

Nisse the gnome was created to display as a cheery welcoming figure to customers who would visit the arts-and-craft shows where Suzanne and others exhibited their works. It

then became a decoration in their yard.

Suzanne is a superb, world-known rosemaling painter. Rosemaling is a style of decorative folk-art painting that originated hundreds of years ago in the valleys of Norway. It's often used as colorful, often floral decorations on plates, cups, chairs, cupboards, boxes and – yes – gnomes. Suzanne's rosemaling items have been exhibited and sold in stores far and wide, including in Norway where her decorated wares are very popular. Suzanne (nee Larson) is Norwegian at heart from tip to toe.

The Tofteys' gnome had become a mere memory of the distant past. But then, flash forward 35 years to October 2017. One day, Suzanne and Jack had just had a bite to eat at Arby's in St. Cloud. Back at their car in the parking lot, Suzanne happened to glance across the street to a strip mall. Suddenly,

Gnome • page 5

# Hansen steps down as high school principal

by Mike Knaak  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell High School Principal Sascha Hansen resigned, the district announced Jan. 3 in an email to parents.

The Sartell-St. Stephen school district will begin a search for an interim principal immediately and will then conduct a search for a new principal in late winter.

Until an interim principal is named, Superintendent Jeff Riddlehoover will office at Sartell High School and will work with assistant principals Jason Menth and Amanda Holstrom and Activities Director Nick Peterson.

“We will miss Sascha's leadership at Sartell High School and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors,” Riddlehoover wrote in the email to parents.



Hansen

At its Jan. 3 meeting, the school board voted to accept her resignation.

Hansen was in the middle of her second year as principal. She joined the district in 2011 as a physical education teacher and served as an assistant principal.



Oak Ridge Early Learning Center

## Early Childhood Information Night:

Monday, Jan. 31

6-7 p.m. in the Oak Ridge Early Learning Center gymnasium  
Parents/guardians are invited to this meeting to preview Early Childhood offerings for the 2022-2023 school year. Individuals will also have the opportunity to talk with staff, tour our classrooms, meet with members of the Boys and Girls Club about our KIDSTART program and leave with information necessary to register their child.

**\*Please note: this event is for adults only.**

## Kindergarten Information Night:

Monday, Feb. 7

6-7 p.m. in the Oak Ridge Early Learning Center gymnasium  
Parents/guardians are invited to this overview of Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year. Individuals will also have the opportunity to talk with staff, tour our classrooms, meet with members of the Boys and Girls Club about our before and after school KIDSTOP program and leave with information necessary to enroll your child in the Sartell-St. Stephen School district.

**\*Please note: this event is for adults only.**

# Troop

from front page

in operations management, is employed by the Information Technology Services at his alma mater, SCSU.

He himself was a Boy Scout who earned an Eagle Scout Badge while growing up in Plymouth. His Eagle project was to build several hundred wood-duck houses, which were placed in the Plymouth Nature Preserve.

Dietz has been appointed to the leadership position recently held by Ben Amundson.

“We hope to grow the troop in the coming year,” Dietz said. “Officially, the organization is just (more than) 40 years old. We're always welcoming new Scouts and the costs are very, very reasonable.”

To find out how to join the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts,

go to the website beascout.org

Scouts, which is led by boys, meet twice a month, plus one annual planning meeting. In addition, both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts enjoy numerous trips, camp-outs and other activities throughout the year – but mainly in summer.

There's an old saying: Once a Boy Scout, always a Boy Scout. Dietz tends to believe that. Strongly, in fact.

Three of the retired Boy Scout leaders remain active in Scouting, including leader Ben Amundson, whose four boys were all deeply involved in Scouting.

Some former Scouts, even though they are up in age, love to keep involved in Scouting, Dietz said, because they keep getting to go on exciting trips and enjoying adventures like hiking, climbing, camping, canoeing, kayaking and immersing themselves in the great outdoors.

“It's exciting,” Dietz said.

“We have all kinds of things planned for next year. The secret of Scouting is to go into the outdoors and have fun.”

Among the Scouting activities in recent years are the following, Dietz noted:

Week-long camping trips at Many Points Scout Camp near Lake Itasca; kayaking by the Apostle Islands in Lake Superior and in Voyageurs National Park; backpacking on a trek through Isle Royal, also on Lake Superior; hiking in the Big Horn Mountains of Montana; a canoe trip every summer (last year down the Crow Wing River).

Dietz said it is gratifying the Central Minnesota Scouts Council office happens to be located right on Scout Drive in south Sartell.

Trina Dietz is proud of her husband and children and their tight connections to scouting.

“It's really the commitment of these men and adult leaders in our troop that allow the cool things to happen,” she wrote in an email. “With the exception of Eric, all of the children of these men (scout leaders) are no longer in Scouting, yet they still give of their time, talent and gear to allow young people in our community to grow.”

To find out more about Scouting or how to join, go to beascout.org

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The Newsleaders



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, Jan. 7**  
**Skating rink now open!** 25 Fifth St. NE, located off of CR 2 and Fifth Street NE., St. Joseph. The skating rink is now open with lights until 10 p.m. at Smoley Fields.

**Saturday, Jan. 8**  
**Be A Tax Volunteer Open House,** 3:30 p.m., St. Cloud Library, Mississippi Room. Volunteer for the Tri-CAP Volunteer Invoice Tax Assistance Program. No experience necessary, training provided, commitment is four hours per week January-April. Contact Jamie for more information at 320-257-4510 or jamie.schmidt@tricap.org.

**Monday, Jan. 10**  
**Sartell City Council,** 6 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

**Tuesday, Jan. 11**  
**Yoga with Shirley!** 7-7:45 a.m., St. Joseph Government Center, Multipurpose Room, 75 Callaway St. E., St. Joseph. This

class is designed for beginners and/or seniors. Sessions held Tuesdays until March 29. Nominal fee.

**Living Well with Chronic Pain,** 9:30 a.m.-noon Tuesdays, Jan. 11-Feb. 22, Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Dr, St. Cloud. This free workshop meets six times and is designed for people with pre-diabetes. For more info contact 320-255-7245 or whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us. Register for classes at https://hipaa.jotform.com/whitneysc/WorkshopRegistration.

**Sartell Chamber of Commerce,** 11:30 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell.

**Wednesday, Jan. 12**  
**Mighty Movers Creative Movement Classes with Music,** 9:30-10:15 a.m., Wednesdays until March 2, St. Joseph Government Center, Multipurpose Room, 75 Callaway St. E., St. Joseph. This class is for children 8-18 months old, children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian the entire time. Classes integrate movement, dance, music, and childhood imagination. Nominal fee for all eight sessions. Visit cityofstjoseph.com to register.

**Adventurers Creative Movement Classes with Music,** 10:30-11:15 a.m., Wednesdays until March 2, St. Joseph Government Center, Multipurpose Room, 75

Callaway St. E., St. Joseph. This class is for children 2-4 years old, children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian the entire time. Classes integrate movement, dance, music, and childhood imagination. Nominal fee for all eight sessions. Visit cityofstjoseph.com to register.

**St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce,** noon-1 p.m., St. Joseph Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E. stjosephchamber.com.

**St. Francis Xavier Preschool Open House,** noon-6 p.m. Come meet the dedicated staff and tour the building. To schedule a personal tour, contact the school at 320-252-9940 or schooloffice@sfx61.org

**“Climate Change: Drought and Declining Water Resources?”** presented by the St. Cloud Area League of Women Voters, 1 p.m. via Zoom. Visit www.lwvsca.org.

**Yoga with Betsy!** 4:30-5:15 p.m., St. Joseph Government Center, Multipurpose Room, 75 Callaway St. E., St. Joseph. This class is designed for intermediate yoga students. Sessions held Wednesdays until March 30. Nominal fee/session.

**Thursday, Jan. 13**  
**Yoga with Betsy!** 7-7:45 a.m., St. Joseph Government Center, Multipurpose Room, 75 Callaway St. E., St. Joseph. This class is designed for beginners and/or seniors. Sessions held Thursdays

until March 31. Nominal fee/session.

**Coffee and Conversation,** a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Topic: Sandy Cordie, Give the Gift of a Legacy File.

**St. Joseph Senior Citizens,** 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE, St. Joseph. Contact Bernie at 320-363-4355 or 320-292-5512.

**Rainbow Support Evening,** 7-9 p.m. Parents/allies/friends and LGBTQ+ persons gather to pray, share stories and support each other. Confidentiality is maintained. Free-will offering accepted. Register at https://sbm.osb.org/event/rainbow-support-evening/

**Saturday, Jan. 15**  
**Community Meal,** 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m., drive-by and pick-up style, First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Road S, Sartell.

**Monday, Jan. 17**  
**Sartell-St. Stephen School Board,** 6:30 p.m., District Service Center, 212 Third Ave. N., Sartell.

**Tuesday, Jan. 18**  
**Living Well with Chronic Pain Workshop,** from 9:30 a.m.-noon, Tuesdays, Jan. 11-Feb. 22, Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. Focus on skills to enhance healthy eating, managing pain, dealing with emotions, exercise, mindful-

ness, breathing techniques and mind-body connection. This free workshop meets six times, each session two-and-one-half hours long. Call 320-255-7245 for more information.

**St. Joseph Lions Club,** 7 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion, 101 Fifth Ave. NW., St Joseph.

**Wednesday, Jan. 19**  
**Diabetes Prevention Program,** various times Wednesdays Jan. 19-May 4, or Saturdays at 9 a.m. beginning Feb. 5-May 21, Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. This free program is designed for people with pre-diabetes. For more info contact 320-650-3082 or whitneyseniorcenter@ci.stcloud.mn.us. Register for classes at https://hipaa.jotform.com/whitneysc/DPPRegistration.

**Thursday, Jan. 20**  
**American Legion,** open to all veterans young and old, 6 p.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S., Sartell.



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Tri-County Abstract

Honorable Mention  
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Holstrom, Amanda and Tyral  
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In Kind  
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The mission of the Sartell-St. Stephen Education Foundation is to support leading-edge programming for the students of School District 748. Learn more at ssef.net.





## Obituaries

### Angel Luis Dominguez, 89 Sartell Oct. 1, 1932-Dec. 29, 2021

Angel Luis Dominguez, 89, of Sartell died Dec. 29 at the St. Cloud Hospital. His funeral was held Jan. 4, 2022 at Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Sauk Rapids. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery in Sartell.

Angel Luis Dominguez was born Oct. 1, 1932 in Jayuya, Puerto Rico to Tomas Dominguez and



Dominguez

Carmen Rivera. He married Rosalia Gonzalez on Dec. 3, 1956. While living in Puerto Rico, Dominguez worked in agriculture for many years and as a waiter for 26 years. He recently moved to Sartell. He loved music and played the harmonica and guitar. He was a true gentleman, was noble, humble and kind. Dominguez loved his family and he instilled in them a strong work ethic and the importance of family. Every single Saturday was reserved for his family and he enjoyed taking them out and celebrating them. He had a strong faith and was a Christian man. He was reliable, hardworking and was always available for anyone who needed help.

Survivors include the following: his wife, Rosalia of Sartell; children: Angel of Connecticut, Carmen (Carlos) of Puerto Rico, William of Minnesota, Lillian of Puerto Rico and Samuel of Minnesota; grandchildren, Angelo, Anthony, Luis, Angelica, Rosangely (Samuel), Natalia (Guillermo), William, Michael, Jacob, Lillianshka, Juan and Marangely; great-grandchildren: Fabian, Alanna, Alyannis, Gianni and Luis; sister, Miriam of Puerto Rico; brother, Roberto of Connecticut.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his son, Jorge.

Obituary, guest book and video tribute available online: [www.williamsdingmann.com](http://www.williamsdingmann.com).

### Michael P. Paquette, 76 Waite Park Dec. 19, 1945-Dec. 29, 2021

Michael P. Paquette, 76, of Waite Park, died at the St. Benedict's Therapy Suites in Sartell. His funeral was held Jan. 6, 2022 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Sartell. The Rev. Ronald Weyrens officiated.

Paquette was born Dec. 19, 1945, in northeast Minneapolis



Paquette

to Philip and Bernice (Provost) Paquette. He graduated from St. John's Prep High School in 1963, where he excelled both as a three-sport athlete (football, basketball and track & field) and in academics. He went on to graduate from St. John's University and the University of Minnesota Law School.

On Oct. 20, 1973, Paquette married Bonnie (Blanco); they enjoyed more than 48 years together.

Throughout his career, Paquette worked as an employee benefits attorney in the St. Cloud area and owned and operated American Legal Publications. He humbly and tirelessly advocated for his clients.

In addition to his family, the

great loves of Paquette's life included God, Johnnie football and good books. He was a man of deep and abiding faith and firmly believed in the sanctity of human life.

Survivors include the following: his wife, Bonnie; daughter, Nicole (Nathan); and grandchildren: Jonah, Henry, and Charlotte Overby of Big Lake; sister, Muriel, of Norridge, Illinois; many nieces and nephews, including Jeff (Kathy) Jennings; and many dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother and two sisters.

Memorials may be directed to Catholic education or any pro-life organization.

Visit Paquette's obituary at [www.danielfuneralhome.com](http://www.danielfuneralhome.com) for a livestream link of the funeral mass.

## 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 [tricitycrimestoppers.org](http://tricitycrimestoppers.org). Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a crime.

### Dec. 19

7:14 p.m. Informational. Birch Circle. An officer met with a mother and daughter at the police department about a tracking alert on her cell phone. It was determined the possible tracking device could be an Apple air tag, but they could not determine if her cell phone was just picking up the device while she was next to someone with it or if it was placed on her vehicle. The officer did search the vehicle, and nothing was found. She was asked to inform the department if this notification happens again and her location when the notification occurs.

### Dec. 20

9:42 a.m. Deer permit. An officer was dispatched to meet with a male party. The male told the officer while walking his dog near a wooded area he came across a very injured buck that needed to be put down. The officer was able to locate the deer and was able to dispatch it. The male party asked for a tag for the deer.

### Dec. 21

12:50 p.m. School patrol. Seventh Street N. The community service officer conducted a foot patrol at the Sartell Middle School with a school resource officer to become more familiarized with the layout of the school and to engage with the students prior to winter break.

### Dec. 22

6:45 p.m. Unwanted person. Twin Rivers Court. Officers were dispatched to a business for a female yelling in the lobby at a manager. Dispatch was informed the female had tried taking something off the counter. While the officer was enroute they were updated by dispatch that the female was now in the parking lot near a truck. The business then cancelled the officer due to the female leaving in the truck.

### Dec. 23

11:12 a.m. Warrant. Lowell

Lane. An officer was on routine patrol when they noticed an individual known to them from previous contacts. The officer also knew this person had a gross misdemeanor warrant out of Stearns County. The officer had dispatch confirm the warrant and informed dispatch he was out with the individual. When the officer informed the individual they had a warrant, the male tried entering the home, while the officer was giving direct orders to stop. The individual attempted to flee from the officer and ran out the back door of his residence. The officer pursued the male and gave numerous verbal commands to stop; the officer called for available units to assist with the situation. The male would not follow commands and was tased by the officer. When the officers attempted to detain male, the male party continued to resist and not follow the verbal commands. Officers were able to detain the male and had Mayo Ambulance check the male out as he had complaints of pain. The male was cleared by the ambulance and taken to the Stearns County Jail for his gross misdemeanor warrant.

### Dec. 24

1:51 a.m. Suspicious vehicle. Fifth Avenue N. An officer was requested to respond to a call about a suspicious vehicle. The caller informed dispatch he saw a vehicle drive past his house, turn around, then intentionally hit his garbage cans, knocking them over. The caller then proceeded to follow the vehicle; he did get the license plate info. The caller lost track of the vehicle. The caller told dispatch he has a lot of odd things happening lately due to ex relationships. The officer tried calling the owner of the vehicle, but got no answer and no voicemail was set up. The officer requested Cold Spring Police Department to check the address of the registered owner, with no luck.

### Dec. 25

5:36 p.m. 911 Hang-up. Fifth Avenue N. Dispatch received a 911 call and could here buttons being pushed and a small child's voice. Once the officer was enroute to the call, dispatch informed the officer they tried calling the number back and it went to voicemail. Dispatch tried calling the number back a second

Blotter • page 9

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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### 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

### Designers

Marg Crumley & Meagan Simonson

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1608 11th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304

mailing address: 1622 11th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304

Phone: (320) 363-7741 • E-mail: [news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

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



# Installation of water meters to begin citywide

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

Starting in early January, Ferguson Waterworks will begin installing new water meters in homes and businesses throughout Sartell. All installations are expected to be completed by the end of June 2022.

The Ferguson Co. is headquartered in Blaine.

Quite a few residents, mostly on the city’s east side and in newer homes, already have upgraded meters installed in

the past, thus they will not be affected by the new-installation policy.

The city council approved the new-meters installation at a recent council meeting. There are almost 4,000 water meters in the city that will be replaced with the new ones at no cost to the residents. Most of the current meters are very old manual-read ones. The new ones will be read remotely via radio waves to a city utilities vehicle upon moving down roads or alleyways.

Residents will receive advance notice via a letter in the mail that will request them to set up appointment times for meter installations, which take about an hour and up to two hours. Installation times can be made for evenings and Saturdays.

The new meters will be paid for by the city – a total of \$1.328 million through a five-year loan at 1.5 percent interest, with other payments coming from the annual city water fund. Each new meter will cost the city

\$275.

The good news is the meters are known to be extremely accurate in recording water usage. The bad news is some residents could be hit with a big one-time water bill. That is because for many years city policy requested all residents read their own meters and submit the reading results to the city. Based on those readings, city staff would average them out to bill for the water usage. It did happen, however, that some residents would not submit readings in a

timely fashion or did not submit readings at all. In that case, the city had to estimate billing based on the few, if any, readings that had been submitted. It’s quite possible once the new meters are in place and working, accurate readings might indicate those residents could receive a one-time bigger bill to compensate for the underestimated bills they’d received in the past.

If residents do receive a one-time big water bill, the city

**Meters • page 9**

## Gnome

from page 2

the ordinary day turned extraordinary.

Suzanne was flabbergasted, tongue-tied, stunned by disbelief.

“There!” she said, pointing, eyes wide with astonishment. “There’s my gnome!”

Jack looked, then looked again.

“It is!” he exclaimed. “It’s the gnome!”

It’s as if they were seeing a long-lost child, one who had run away 45 years ago and then suddenly found his way back again, out of the blue. There stood Nisse in front of the Uff-Da Vinyl Records shop in St. Cloud.

The Tofteys crossed the street and gazed with wonder at their long-lost Nisse. Jack walked into the shop and asked the owner, “Where did you get that gnome?”

The owner said he’d bought it from a woman who was selling objects that had accumulated for years in storage at her home. The Tofteys told them their story, and the owner, amazed, quickly offered to give the gnome back to them.

They politely declined. Both the Tofteys, though glad to see their Nisse again, decided he looked just fine and happy, that twinkle in his eyes, holding his welcome sign in front of that record shop.



contributed photo

**Surrounded by gnomelets, Suzanne Toftey poses with her long-lost friend, the gnome that came home after nearly 50 years since she and her husband created it. The sign the gnome is holding is the Norwegian word for “Welcome.”**

about a year ago, in the middle of pandemic isolations, the shop had to shut its doors. The Tofteys were sad and disappointed, having known so many people who loved that vinyl-records store, owned by a man named Jeff Pederson. Shortly after the store’s closing, neighbors of the Tofteys had a sly plot in mind: buy the gnome and give it as a surprise Christmas present to the Tofteys. But Pederson told them he wanted to keep the gnome as he had always been fond of them. Images of gnomes were featured in his store and on his website.

Then one day, the Tofteys woke up in their Sartell home.

Suzanne looked out the window, just as she did nearly 50 years ago when she discovered the gnome was gone. And to her utter astonishment, there stood the gnome, perched in a snowbank.

“I was so happy – so happy to see him!,” Suzanne said. “Jack was happy too. We were totally surprised. We still don’t know for sure who brought him back to us. He was a bit faded, rusty around the edges, but I repainted him. Then I put Christmas decorations on him.”

And now, at long last, Nisse gnome is back at home right where he belongs, happily ever after.

## Ambitious 19th Avenue S. reconstruction approved

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

The Sartell City Council unanimously approved final-design plans and advertisement for bids for one of the most ambitious projects in the city’s history – the reconstruction of 19th Avenue S. in the western part of the city.

That roadway will be redone for a distance of 1.33 miles, from CR 4 to CR 133. Besides redoing the road, the project also includes adding water lines, sanitary sewer lines and storm-water system, pole lighting, an underground holding pond, two or three above-ground ponds and possibly up to three pedestrian flashing-light pushbutton crossings. An off-road paved trail will be constructed all along the west side of 19th Avenue.

Jon Halter, city engineer, updated plans for the project at the Nov. 22 council meeting.

The project was first envisioned in March 2020. Since then, the design plans were tweaked and design variants considered, soil borings done, a feasibility study completed, a public hearing and easement approvals obtained.

Bidding on the project will likely take place in January, and construction would begin in mid-April, weather permitting. The Daybreak

and Harper’s neighborhood developments are both located near 19th Avenue S., Halter noted.

The base bid is estimated at about \$7,608,000 and that bid with three alternates added is likely to be about \$8,098,000.

The project’s alternate bids include plans for a trail along Sixth Street, an overlay on part of a trail on the north end of 19th Avenue and the pedestrian crossings at 19 Street S. and 15th Street S, as well as one at the roundabout at 6th Street S.

Halter explained to the curious council what an “underground pond” is. It will be, he said, a hollowed-out chamber at the road’s shoulder under the paved walking/biking trail. Pipes leading into it will be perforated to allow water run-off to slowly seep out of the pipes and into the ground.

All easements, except for one, have been obtained for the project to proceed. Stearns Electric, at its own expense, will install buried electric lines along the roadway. The improvements and connections, Halter said, are almost certain to spur more development in that area of the city.

During construction there will be a detour, Halter noted, adding residents will have access to their homes.

## Council unanimously votes in flat-tax budget for 2022

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

The Sartell City Council has just approved a “flat-tax” final city budget for 2022 – flat tax meaning many, if not most, residents and businesses will not see a tax increase unless their market values increase.

The council voted unanimously to approve the budget and levy at a public hearing Dec. 13 at city hall. No one in the audience offered any comment on the budget/levy.

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 increase in all departments. Also increasing are the police and

fire department expenditure funds to enhance safety and to prepare for future capital expenditures.

Council members praised Sartell Finance Director Rob Voshell and all of the city and departments staff for keeping costs down as low as possible, which made the flat-tax budget possible.



## FITNESS FOR SENIORS | BENEFITS

# Tap Into the Fountain of Youth

Along with a balanced diet, exercise may be a key to the fountain of youth for seniors.

According to the American Association of Retired Persons, physical activity helps maintain healthy blood vessels that provide good circulation to the body and brain. Committing to practicing an active lifestyle is a beneficial way to sharpen both your mind and overall health.

If you're ready to take control of your fitness but are hesitant to join a gym, you may find several types of exercise to perform at home. From walking around your neighborhood to incorporating physical challenges into your daily routine, seniors gain immense health benefits from small changes. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that older adults follow these guidelines to keep their bodies fit and working efficiently.

- Three hundred minutes per week of moderate-intensity aerobic activity.

- Vigorous aerobic exercise should be performed for 150 minutes per week.

Suppose you have lived a mostly sedentary lifestyle. In that case, it's essential to speak with your medical provider before beginning a new exercise routine. They can monitor your fitness levels and advise you toward exercises that you



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can perform safely.

Check out how exercise may be the secret to tapping into the fountain of youth.

## KEEP SKIN YOUTHFUL

One of the many changes that come with age includes a faltered skin appearance. According to the U.S. National

Library of Medicine, this occurs as the outer skin layer thins, even though the number of cell layers remains unchanged. An active lifestyle promotes increased blood flow, which sends more oxygen and eliminates waste, enhancing skin cells, keeping them healthy and vital.

Additionally, sweating allows our pores to open to stop waste and toxins from becoming clogged.

## BOOSTS METABOLISM

The Mayo Clinic defines metabolism as the process by which your body converts what you eat and drink into

energy. As we age, the amount of muscle tends to decrease, and fat becomes more prevalent. Weight gains and high-body fat can result in serious health issues like diabetes and heart disease. Exercise is key to maintaining a healthy weight and regulating metabolism during the senior years.

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# Board

from front page

and development. If the board approves the draft, students will be in class for 170 instead of 171 days. The state requires a minimum of 165 class days. Sauk Rapids-Rice

students meet for 170 days and St. Cloud schools are in session for 169 days, Ridle Hoover said. When actual class hours are counted, Sartell-St. Stephen high school students, for example, meet more than 130 hours above the state requirement. Ridle Hoover said the committee that compiled

the draft calendars made no changes to spring break. During work sessions, board members can discuss issues but can't vote. The board is expected to vote on the proposed calendars at its next meeting at 6.30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 24, at the District Service Center.

# Tragedy

from front page

still unable to care for himself and his future is unknown at this time. He will remain in Golden Valley recovering for the foreseeable future. The Chung family has owned and operated JL Nails in Sartell for more than 10 years. Since Chung's accident, his wife Hanh Le has been running the business on her own. "They are some of the hardest working people I've ever met," said Trina Lavigne of Sartell, who has been a customer of JL Nails for many years now. When she heard about what happened, she sprang into action. "I just want to make sure

Tragedy • page 9

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# Routine Vet Care

Dogs should see a veterinarian at least once a year.

Puppies will have to go to the vet more frequently as they get their vaccinations, usually every three to four weeks until they are about four months old. Older dogs — those older than 7 or 8 — should also go twice a year to catch geriatric illnesses earlier.

### SPAYING AND NEUTERING

All dogs should be spayed or neutered unless they will be bred, Merck says. Intact animals can have serious conditions later, such as prostate disease in males and mammary cancer in females. Having a dog fixed can also improve behavior. Females are usually fixed around six months old, and males are fixed between five and 10 months old, depending on breed and size.

### VACCINATIONS

Your dog will also be vaccinated against common illnesses at his yearly appointment, including distemper, parvovirus and rabies. A rabies vaccination may be required by local laws; make sure to keep your dog's rabies tag and certificate handy. Other vaccinations may also be important because of diseases that are more prevalent in certain parts of the country, such as Lyme disease. Your vet

can tell you which ones you need.

### DENTAL CARE

Just like you, your dog needs regular dental care, too. At home, you can help keep their teeth in good shape by feeding dry dog food and giv-

ing them toys that help clean their teeth. You can also brush their teeth with a toothpaste that's safe for dogs. Your veterinarian may also recommend a program of professional cleanings to reduce plaque, which causes gingivitis and periodontal disease.

### PARASITES

Your vet may also test for and treat several parasites that live on and in your dog. The most common are fleas and ticks, and you can use a variety of topical medications, pills or injections to keep those itchy pests away. More serious are

internal parasites, which are also prevented by many flea and tick medications. It's important to keep your dog on a reliable heartworm preventative year-round.

Your veterinarian can help you find the parasite control medication that's right for you.



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## Pine Cone Pet Hospital

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





# Blotter

from page 4

time and got an adult male. The male advised no emergency was occurring and that younger children must have been playing with the phone in the basement. The male informed dispatch he would discuss the importance of proper use of 911. The officer cancelled.

**Dec. 26**

7:13 pm. Assist person. First Street NE. An officer was quest- ed to call a person questioning parking an enclosed trailer on the roadway overnight. Officer called the complainant who asked if they could park an enclosed trail- er on the road for the evening. The officer informed the caller due to the snow advisory the trail- er would be towed if left on the street overnight because plows would be out and it’s against city ordinance.

**Dec. 27**

8:33 a.m. Vehicle in ditch. CR 120. An officer was dispatched for a vehicle off the roadway. The of- ficer along with two other citizens were able to help get the vehicle unstuck. No further action taken by the officer.

**Dec. 28**

1:45 p.m. Assist person. Sun- dance Road. Dispatch received a call about a person in a powered wheelchair stuck in the snow and not dressed for the cold temps. The Sartell community service of- ficer was in the area and stopped to assist the male. The CSO was able to help pull the wheelchair from the heavy snow. The CSO assisted the male party with get- ting onto the sidewalk by the building doors. The male told the CSO he no longer needed his assistance and was good.

**Dec. 29**

2:12 p.m. Information. 21st

Avenue N. An officer was re- quested to check on a neighbor because another neighbor noticed their vehicle had been running in the driveway for more than two hours. The officer arrived and spoke to a juvenile male who stated they were just getting ready to leave, and everything was fine. The officer called the complainant back to inform them everything was OK.

**Dec. 30**

10:28 p.m. Trespassing. CR 120. An officer was at a business for an unrelated event, when a staff member indicated to the offi- cer they had someone in the store who had previously trespassed. The employee showed the officer a photo of the individual and then led the officer to the person. The male identified himself to the officer as the male the employee stated he was. The male also told the officer he knew he wasn’t supposed to be there. Upon run- ning a license check on the male, the officer was told by dispatch he had 12 active warrants. The male was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Stearns County Jail. The officer also issued the male a citation for trespassing.

**Dec. 31**

6:02 p.m. Loud music. First Street NE. An officer was dis- patched to an address for loud bass being heard in a nearby apartment. The officer arrived on scene and did not hear music or loud bass. The officer made contact with the suspected apart- ment, and an adult male an- swered the door. The male ac- knowledged his children were playing loud music prior to the officer’s arrival. He had already spoken to them about shutting the music off. Nothing further by the officer.

**Jan. 1**

2:08 a.m. Property damage. Fifth Avenue N. An officer was

dispatched to call a homeowner for a property damage that just occurred, and they had a ve- hicle description. Officers were informed an 18.5-foot snowman decoration had just been cut on the complainants yard. They saw a Chevy truck driving away on Ninth. Another officer saw the vehicle, was able to make a traffic stop and informed the first officer that four juveniles were in the ve- hicle. The suspect was identified, and their parents were contacted. The complainant stated he would be fine with replacement of the decoration vs. having the person charged.

**Jan. 2**

8:16 p.m. Suspicious smell. 10th Avenue N. An officer was re- quested for a resident using paint thinner on a vehicle in their ga- rage. The complainant stated they could smell solvent in the hall- ways and in their apartment. The garage door was open, and they were venting upon the officer’s arrival. The resident was advised to stop immediately as they were not allowed to do body work there. All parties complied and the complainant was advised.

**Jan. 3**

11:09 a.m. Dog at large. 20th Avenue S. While the community service officer was on routine patrol, a black lab approached his vehicle. The dog approached his vehicle on the roadway, so he stopped and checked if the dog had any identification. The dog had on a collar but no tags. The CSO saw someone looking through the window of their home adjacent to where he had stopped. He approached the home to see if they knew where the dog belonged. The person claimed ownership of the dog. The CSO and the owner discussed getting the dog a tag with owner information on it and the owner stated he would at an upcoming vet appointment.

# Meters

from page 5

is willing to offer long-term payment plans with pre-ar- ranged payment amounts. If that should happen, call city hall at 320-253-2171 to make arrangements.

Some residents, on the oth- er hand, might receive smaller bills based on the more-accu- rate readings than the ones on the old meters. Those residents could get a one-time credit pay- ment from the city.

Residents are asked to be aware of the following infor- mation:

If they receive an installation letter but will be gone for a con-

# Tragedy

from page 7

they understand they have a community of people stand- ing behind them, supporting them,” she said.

Lavigne along with other long-time customers and Sartell residents Dana Fischer and Ta- nia Nevares also heard Chung’s story and didn’t hesitate to jump in and help.

The three of them have been planning a benefit for the Chungs that will take place at the Blue Line in Sartell, a busi- ness neighbor of JL Nails.

The benefit is scheduled for Jan. 16 from 4-7 p.m. The own- er of Blue Line, Scott Widor has agreed to put 20 percent of all sales during the benefit toward a fund for the Chung family to help with medical costs.

“I felt kind of bad asking Scott to donate money,” Ne- vares said. “You know with Covid(-19) times when busi- nesses are having a hard time staying staffed and everything else. But Scott didn’t even

siderable amount of time, such as wintering over in some oth- er state, they can schedule an appointment for the future by reaching Ferguson Waterworks by email (www.fergusonsched- uling.com) or calling the com- pany toll-free at 1-800-818-0389.

All installers will have with them proper identification, will be wearing Ferguson uni- forms and will arrive in marked vehicles. All have had crim- inal-background checks. Each installer will abide by Covid safeguards – mask, distancing.

Residents should prepare by clearing out the space around the water meters so the installer has unencumbered access.

An adult 18 years old or old- er must be in the residence at the time of installation.

flinch. He said absolutely he would help.”

There are also opportunities for businesses to offer sponsor- ships. If you are interested or have questions about sponsor- ing the Chung family, you can contact Lavigne at: tlavigne@ homeownersfg.com.

“They are just kind, hard- working people.” Fischer said. “I think it’s a big thing for the community to do. One to show their support. [The Chungs] live in our community, their children attend school in our community, they have a small business in our community.”

Fischer went on to say, “If you get your nails done there, continue to do that. What we’re doing right now is giving them some lift and some relief but really, the long-term solution for them is to support their business.”

A Go Fund Me page has also been set up for the Chung fami- ly at: https://gofund.me/046bf- dea

For great service and to sup- port the Chungs’ business you can find JL Nails at 1101 Second St. S. #101, Sartell.

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# Opinion

## Our View

### Give yourself some grace

As we head into the new year many of us will be making those resolutions, even though we know statistically we will fail them.

Instead of making a resolution you have a good chance of failing, maybe this year should be about acceptance.

It's always good to have goals, and of course growth is a very important part of life, but sometimes we get so caught up in being better we don't notice how well we are already doing.

2020 was a rough year, there is no disputing that. But 2021 might have been even more difficult. Sure, we have a vaccine for that nasty virus, we started to get things a little back to normal and socializing was definitely good for the soul; but unlike before the pandemic, those things came with added stresses we didn't have before.

We could go back to our schools now which was a definite relief, but there were new protocols put into place and the constant worry of exposure. Wearing masks and social distancing are not bad things, but they are constant reminders we are not quite where we once were.

Family and friends have come together again but there is still division, to vaccinate or not to vaccinate, and this battle is ruining relationships. The fight between nature and science rages on but it's more personal now than ever.

It's easy to assume since we can socialize again, our mental health issues are improving, but that's not entirely true either. The battle within one's own mind on whether or not they should go out or stay in also weighs heavy. Many of us are still questioning if we should isolate ourselves or not for the betterment of our communities.

A lot of us were very hopeful this year would be better than the last, and for many of us, maybe it was. But the challenges that were presented were still very difficult and we shouldn't pretend they didn't exist.

So, this year, maybe give yourself a little credit for just making it through. If you have a goal of losing weight, saving more money, getting those projects done around the house, that's great, those are things that keep us going sometimes. But if you make it through the end this month and discover you haven't accomplished or even started on any of those goals, give yourself some grace. Because you're still here and you're still adding value to others' lives, even if you don't realize it.

Right now, that's enough.

### 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.

## St. Cloud-born Oscar winner ended badly

So few people in this area know that an Oscar-winning actor was born in St. Cloud.

Born Byron Elsworth Barr, his acting name was Gig Young. He usually played second-fiddle roles, which frustrated him his entire life because actors other than him always got the top billing.

Second fiddle or not, he was a superb supporting actor known for suave good looks and adept at both drama and comedy. He was nominated three times for an Oscar for best-supporting actor, first for "Come Fill the Cup" (1952) in which he played an alcoholic who quits the bottle to save his marriage. His second nomination was for his work in "Teacher's Pet," a comedy with Doris Day and Clark Gable (1959). Young played a boozy, debonair intellectual.

Young struck Oscar gold for playing "Rocky," a cynical promoter/emcee in "They Shoot Horses, Don't They" (1969). Starring Jane Fonda, it was about a grueling dance marathon during the Great Depression when destitute contestants (couples) danced round and round in a ballroom to the point of ragged exhaustion day and night to win the big, elusive prize money.

Like a carnival barker, Rocky verbally whips the dancers on – insulting them, cajoling them, trying to keep their spirits up with his hollow enthusiasm – his repeated chants of "Yowza! Yowza!! Yowza!!! A great performance in a grim but powerful drama.

It's eerily prescient that Young was nominated three times for playing booz-

### Dennis Dalman

Reporter



ers because alcohol abuse is partly what led to his appalling, tragic death.

He was born in St. Cloud in 1913. His father owned a pickle-canning plant in south St. Cloud, not far from the current South Junior High School. He attended Riverview Grammar School and later Tech High School, where he was a member of the male cheerleading team, the "Peppy Techs." He worked fitfully at his father's factory but hated the monotony. What he loved most was acting in school plays and watching movies at the Paramount Theater, where he for a time was an usher.

After high school, Barr went to Los Angeles where he earned a scholarship to the prestigious Pasadena Playhouse. A talent scout saw a play there and was struck by the talents of two actors – Byron Barr and George Reeves. The scout secured them sign-ups with Warner Brothers. (Reeves found fame as TV's Superman. Like Barr, he too later committed suicide.)

In an early 1940s movie, Barr played a man named Gig Young. Barr decided to use that name for his own. For four decades, Young's career flourished.

In 1941, he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard, serving until war's end. Then

## Hope for a better new year for Minnesota sports

The Minnesota sports calendar certainly kicked off with some big events at the start of this new year.

First, the Winter Classic between the Wild and the St. Louis Blues came to Target Field on New Year's Day, followed by the Vikings playing the Packers at Lambeau Field the next day with hopes of staying alive in the NFL playoffs. While my disappointment at not making plans to go in person to either of these marquee events was quickly snuffed out by seeing the temperature readings those two nights, disappointment was quickly replaced by seeing the Wild and Vikings both go down to defeat. While this wasn't the best start to the year for us ever-patient Minnesota fans, I have optimism this year can bring some positive change for these two teams.

First off, the team I'm most excited about in the new year is the Minnesota Wild. If you haven't been paying as much attention to them this season, the third period of the Winter Classic is what you should think of in terms of their playing style. This team has been growing and building, scoring nonstop, and is looking set to be a playoff contender. At one point this season the Wild had the best record in all of the NHL.

Heading up this revival of the Wild is Kirill Kaprizov, who joined the Wild last year and made huge waves in his rookie season. He's easily the favorite player of myself and my college roommates, and

### Connor Kockler

Guest writer



he has been prolific in providing dozens of goals and assists to the team. Along with him are other exciting players like Kevin Fiala, Jared Spurgeon, Joel Eriksson Ek, just to name a few. The Wild came heartbreakingly close to advancing in the playoffs last year, losing in Game 7 to Vegas in the first round, and I think they have a real shot of going farther this year.

The Vikings, after being eliminated from the playoffs by Green Bay, have some serious reflection to do. This season really felt like a rollercoaster ride. Almost every single game, even ones that we should have won easily, ended up in an anxiety-inducing one-score situation near the end. Many games coming down to the very last play didn't help. This was confusing considering how potent the offense looks on paper and how well our defense usually does under Coach Mike Zimmer. We have exceptional players like Justin Jefferson and Dalvin Cook who put in stellar performances all season long only for the team often to end up losing.

While the Vikings may beat the Bears next week to get to a slightly better record to end the season, this team hasn't

his long string of movies and TV work continued. In 1971, he won an Emmy for "The Neon Ceiling," a TV movie. After his death, the Emmy was donated to the Stearns History Museum.

Young, who had one daughter, was married five times. One of the wives was Elizabeth Montgomery, who later starred as Samantha in the TV series, "Bewitched." She divorced him due to his worsening alcoholism. He lost the role of the "Waco Kid" in the comedy-western "Blazing Saddles" when he fainted from alcohol withdrawal the first day of shooting. Gene Wilder then got the part. Young was also fired from the role as "Charlie" in TV's "Charlie's Angels."

His last role was in a 1978 movie "Game of Death." That same year, he married a German magazine editor who, at 31, was half his age. Three months after their marriage, one day after grocery shopping they returned home to their Manhattan apartment. Young, age 64, shot his wife dead, then shot and killed himself. It's awful to think Young became the murderer of that young wife before taking his own life.

Many said chronic alcohol abuse, combined with his faltering career and his long disappointment over rarely landing leading roles, pushed him over the edge.

He was buried next to his parents in a North Carolina cemetery under a grave marker inscribed with "Byron E. Barr."

been winning big games when it matters. Looking back, under Zimmer's tenure we've had so many critical playoff losses. Even in successful years, the best we could manage was going to the NFC Championship game in 2017-2018, and then losing 38-7 to the Eagles. After almost 10 years of Zimmer, I think it's great the Vikings have had winning records and made it to the playoffs for so many of those years. But if you don't win a championship, how long until something needs to change? I think if we can get a new coach and a new approach, the Vikings should have more than enough good players and determination to play much better and maybe even get further into the playoffs in the next few years.

While I know optimism always has a way of coming back to bite us as Minnesota sports fans, I think in light of some tough seasons in the past few years, including the Twins this past year, and the Timberwolves' constant troubles, we should take good developments where we can. And after all, the success of the Lynx proves we can keep winning championships in Minnesota. Looking at the Wild and the Vikings in particular, I think there are signs of more success ahead. So while we don't want to jinx it, let's keep our heads up high and see what this next year could have in store.

*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



# Giving To A Good Cause

For many people, leaving a legacy involves more than distributing property to family. It also means giving generously to organizations that make a difference.

If you're thinking about leaving a meaningful gift to charity as part of your estate plan, it's important that you come up with a road map to handle all the details properly. Here are some things to consider.

### CHOOSING THE CHARITY

This may be the easiest part of the process for some people, but it's important to get the decision right.

Many people will know exactly which charity or charities they want to include in their estate plan. It's typically an organization you have a first-person experience with, either as the recipient of their services or as a volunteer and supporter during your life.

Some non-profits share very similar-sounding names, though, so make sure you know their exact legal name, their official address and their registered charity number.

Knowing these facts will make sure your donation ends up in the place you intended.

### DECIDING THE DETAILS

Donations can come in many different forms, and it's important to get legal advice for your situation.

The good news is that you can decide the timing, amounts and form your donation takes. The bad news is that it can be difficult to choose from all the different options, including varying tax and inheritance implications depending on your exact situation. That's why it is important

to get a qualified and experienced attorney involved to make sure you get all the legal details right.

Your bequest can take different forms, including a flat dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, a piece of real estate or personal property, or a gift that is contingent on certain conditions being met.

You can also decide how your donation should be used. It can be given without restrictions for general expenses, or it can go

into an existing fund that's earmarked for a specific purpose.

Another options is creating a new fund for a philanthropic effort you're passionate about. You can work with the charity to find the best fit for how your bequest can meet your goals and make the biggest impact for the most people.

### KEEPING IT UPDATED

Your wishes should be written into your will, of course, using the services of an attorney

who is very experienced at estate planning in your state.

It's a good idea to keep your will updated as time goes on, too. Some aspects of your estate plan can change, including the size of your estate, the charity's mission and laws that govern it all, including tax implications. Revisiting your will every few years is a good way to make sure your intentions are carried out in the best way to leave the legacy you want.

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# Personal Finance

Pay down credit card debt, stick to budgets and put more money toward retirement.

Whatever you decide, improve financial behaviors in 2022. Use these tips from U.S. News & World Report.

**SET A BUDGET, LIVE BY IT**

Focus on a weekly budget rather than a monthly one, says Lamar Brabham, CEO and founder of Noel Taylor Agency, a financial services firm in South Carolina. “Most people find managing a weekly budget easier to digest than even a monthly budget,” Brabham tells U.S. News & World Report, adding that while it’s important to set a budget, it’s vital to consult it often.

**PUT MORE MONEY AWAY FOR RETIREMENT**

Can you be saving more? If you haven’t started putting money away, Brabham says, “it’s time to pick your vehicles.” He recommends starting with an IRA, cash-value life insurance and an individual brokerage account. Be sure to take full advantage of your company’s 401(k) match and automatic paycheck deduction.

**CREATE AN EMERGENCY FUND**

Establish a rainy-day fund. Whitney Ditlow, a North-western Mutual financial

advisor in Miami, tells U.S. News & World Report that everyone should open a sav-ings account that will serve as an emergency fund. A good goal to keep in mind is having around six months’ worth of expenses saved.

**WORK TO IMPROVE YOUR CREDIT**

If you’re planning a major purchase this year, such as a house or car, improving your credit score can save you money and help you get the best deal. Pay your bills on

time and try to pay off credit cards in full every month. Aim to keep your debt at less than 30% of your available credit.

**THINK ABOUT INSURANCE**

Insurance can make or

break your finances. Analyze your out-of-pocket expenses, such as your deductible and co-pays, under your current plan, and look into other plans. Bundle your car and homeowner’s insurance to save money.



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