

Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, April 29, 2022
Volume 27, Issue 9
Est. 1995

Town Crier

Great River Chorale concert set May 1

“In Every Corner Sing,” the 20th anniversary concert presented in person and live stream by the Great River Chorale, will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 1 in St. John’s University Abbey Church, Collegeville. The event features guest organist Stephen Hamilton and two world premieres by composer-in-residence René Clausen. All seat are general admission. For tickets, visit greatriverchorale.org.

Lemonade and Laughter scheduled May 10

Lemonade and Laughter - A Celebration of Older Americans Month is BACK! The event, featuring Ted Manderfeld, will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, May 10 at the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Come early to shop our gift market and visit with friends. \$5 for SSC members and \$7 for non-members at the door.

Community ed seeks youth camp items

Community Education needs the following items for youth camp activities this summer: paper towel/toilet paper rolls, 20-ounce and two-liter plastic bottles, tin soup cans, newspapers and magazines. There are totes for each item in the hallway outside their office in the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. For more information, call Kristina at 320-258-7334.

Attention parents of 2021 graduates

Parents of 2021 grads, please be aware your student should have received an email from the school with a link to an online form to collect bio information to be included in the 2021 Grad Tab publishing in the May 28 edition of the Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader. Please check in with your student to ensure they turn the information in in a timely manner. Home-schooled students or those attending schools other than Sartell High School are also encouraged to submit their name, parents’ names, school they’re graduating from and future plans to be included separately in the May 28 edition. Deadline is Monday, May 2. Visit <https://thenewsleaders.com/about-us/> to submit your student’s information.

INSERTS:
City of St. Stephen
Country Manor

‘Vibes’ helpers inspire others with acts of kindness

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

It all started last October with a big batch of homemade chicken-noodle soup.

Since then, positive vibes among many local people are blooming; kind connections – often among total strangers – are flourishing.

Carolyn Bertsch, who made that pot of soup, is the owner, with her husband, Matt, of Four Seasons Window, Carpet and Air Duct Cleaning. She is also assignment editor, proofreader and an award-winning photographer for the Newsleader newspapers in Sartell-St. Stephen and in St. Joseph.

The “Positive Vibes” program began with an act of kindness. Denise Gagner, former owner of Portraits by Studio D in St. Cloud,

Vibes • page 6



contributed photo

Sartell Mobile Home Park and Positive Vibes volunteers gather with the Easter Bunny April 9 at the Positive Vibes Easter Event. They are (front row, left to right) I-Jung Lee, Ken Goenner and Mady Bertsch; (middle row) Jenn Hengel, Easter Bunny Shane Dixon and Liza Schwappach; and (back row) Sandy Goenner, Connie Dixon, Emily Wood and Carolyn Bertsch.

High school student council earns national recognition

by Mike Knaak
news@thenewsleaders.com

The Sartell High School Student Council received an award for its leadership, service and activities to improve the school. The student council was recognized as a National Gold Council of Excellence

by National Student Council.

“Our students earned this Gold-level national recognition during a challenging year and I am so proud,” said Student Council Adviser Karrie Fredrickson in a statement. “Their cooperation, creativity and genuine concern and support for each other serve as inspira-

tion for other students and our community.”

“During Covid, our council has to adapt to our ever-changing environment,” said Student Council President Summbla Anjum in statement. “However, this is the first year where we have had a sense of normalcy and I think our

council has stepped up to bring back some of our traditions. Some grades in the high school have never experienced a winter formal or carnival, and the enthusiasm and commitment our council has shown are commendable.”

In addition to these traditions
Recognition • page 4



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Eggstra-special

Positive Vibes member Emily Wood of Sartell assembles her handcrafted backdrop for Easter bunny photos April 9 at the Positive Vibes Easter Event at Watab Park.

City, Bearson Foundation to create basketball courts

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Tom Bearson’s memory lives on, with three basketball courts planned in his honor for Pinecone Central Park.

Bearson, the son of Greg and Debbie Bearson, was a Sartell High School graduate and superb basketball player who was found murdered in Moorhead on Sept. 20, 2014. At the time, he was attending North Dakota State University, planning to become a nurse anesthetist. His murder has yet to be solved.

At the April 25 Sartell City Council meeting, Bearson’s father, Greg, gave a presentation with slide show to the council about the Tom Bearson Memorial Courts. The project will be a collaboration between Sartell and the Tom Bearson Foundation, with the foundation giving \$150,000 for the courts. Greg

noted the foundation already has \$50,000 with the remaining \$100,000 to be raised. The city’s share would be about \$75,000.

Preliminary work on the courts will begin this spring in the northern area of the park.

In addressing the council, Bearson said after Tom’s death, the devastated family kept asking themselves, “Why Tom?” That incessant question caused them to question the meaning of their lives. Support from people in Sartell was crucial for their healing process. Bearson then listed some of the things the family learned: that Sartell is a wonderful community, that compassion is so important for hearts that hurt, that giving to others is the much-needed nourishment for people’s souls and that “happiness can be found in the darkness if only

Courts • page 4



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Hemmesch chosen to play for Golden Gophers

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Sartell High School student and ace pitcher Tyler Hem-

mesch, 16, will play for the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers when he becomes a student there in fall 2023.

One day, he received a star-

ling phone call that made his heart start pounding. The call was from U of M baseball coach Ty McDevitte who asked Hemmesch if he'd like to pitch for the Golden Gophers in a few years. The offer caused the young pitcher to become nearly speechless.

"I was startled," he recalled. "It was cool to know they'd watched me play and liked me. It's still pretty surreal, but I'm really excited. I have a couple friends in the Twin Cities, and they will be there too - on the Golden Gophers team. Altogether, I know about six guys who will be on the team."

Those who know Hemmesch and have watched his pitching expertise are not surprised by his success. He is in his second year as a right-handed pitcher for the high school's Sartell Sabres baseball team. Last year, that team's record was 9 wins, 2 losses.

Last summer, when he was a member of the Twin Cities' North Star traveling team, he pitched a no-hitter in Burnsville.

Last year, while playing a game in Alexandria, he found himself "in a bit of jam," as he put it, because the bases were loaded with the opposing team's members with nobody out. The catcher gave him a quick pep talk, telling him he could "lock it in." And that's exactly what Hemmesch did; he struck out the next three batters.

Ever since he was a tyke, Hemmesch has loved baseball.

Gophers • page 5



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ALBUM RELEASE PREVIEW

Neon Lightning

PAMELA MCNEILL

SAT, MAY 14
7:30PM





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April 16
9:49 p.m. DWI. Second Street S. Officers were requested for a motor-vehicle crash. The complainant stated he was rear ended by another party, then pushed down the roadway by the vehicle and then the driver drove around his vehicle into a driveway. The complainant followed the other party and asked if they were OK, and the driver then went into the home. When the officer arrived on scene, he saw the complainant sitting at the end of the driveway outside of his truck and another man next to a Trailblazer with front-end damage. The officer spoke to the male driver, who was having a hard time answering questions the officer was asking. The driver refused to do field sobriety testing and refused to give a preliminary breath test. The man was ultimately booked into the Stearns County Jail for DWI.

April 17
1:03 a.m. Suspicious vehicle. CR 120. While an officer was on routine patrol checking parks, they noticed two vehicles at Sauk River Regional Park. The officer noted one of the vehicles parked was still running. As the officer approached the running vehicle, he found two individuals were in the back seat of the car. The officer identified both parties and explained to them they were in the park after hours. The man and woman both told the officer they didn’t

know about the park hours. As the officer was speaking to the two parties, he observed an odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. As the officer started scanning inside the vehicle, he saw a mason jar with a green leafy substance in it, and an item that appeared to be a bong. The officer asked if there was anything else in the vehicle he needed to know about, and the man said there was more

marijuana in the front. The officer waited for another officer to arrive, and they searched the vehicle finding more marijuana and drug paraphernalia. The male party took ownership of all items and was cited for them.

April 18
11:12 a.m. Crash. Pinecone Road N. An officer was notified by dispatch that this morning at 6:45 a.m. a vehicle had spun

out on the icy roadway and hit a sign. The vehicle had damage and was parked further down the roadway and would be towed shortly. The officer located the sign, which did not appear to be damaged. The officer also located the vehicle down the road on a side street with front-end damage. The officer took photos of both and collect-

ed insurance information in case the sign did need to be replaced.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK SALE

Saturday, April 30
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- Conduct client education and referral activities as it pertains to program and agency guidelines and requirements.

Qualifications

- High school equivalency and 5 years’ related work experience, or 5 years’ combined education/experience.
- Experience estimating home repairs, scope of work write-ups and housing inspections.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to work with minimum supervision and maintain customer confidentiality.
- Must have the ability to obtain all Minnesota state required certifications to conduct WX audits & QCI.
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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.

Saturday, April 30
Craft-Vendor-Bake-Schoolastic Book Sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Cloud Athlos Academy School, 3701 33rd St. S., St. Cloud. Free admission, prize drawings and food.

Sunday, May 1
“**In Every Corner Sing**,” presented by Great River Chorale, 2 p.m., St. John’s University Abbey Church, Collegeville. There is a fee.

Monday, May 2
Sartell Lions Club, 6:30 p.m., contact Stewart Giffin at 651-261-4272 regarding meeting details.

Tuesday, May 3
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 jsorell97@gmail.com. Free for museum members and \$7 for non-members. <https://www.stearnshistorymuseum.org/>

Wednesday, May 4
St. Stephen City Council, 6:30 p.m., St. Stephen City Hall, 2 Sixth Ave SE.

Thursday, May 5
Diabetes Prevention Program: A Whitney Wellness Workshop, 9-10 a.m., Tuesday now-July 26 in-person at Whitney Senior Center, 1527 North-

way Drive, St. Cloud. whitneywellness.org.

Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Topic: TBD.

Saturday, May 7
NAMI Mental Health Walk: Celebrate Hope! Check in begins at 9 a.m., walk begins at 11 a.m., Lake George, St. Cloud. namistcloud.com.

Monday, May 9
Sartell City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall, 125 Pinecone Road N.

Tuesday, May 10
Sartell Chamber of Commerce, 11:30 a.m., Waters Church, 1227 Pinecone Road N., Sartell.

Lemonade and Laughter – A celebration of Older Americans Month is BACK! The event, featuring Ted Manderfeld, will be held at 2 p.m. at the Sartell

Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Come early to shop the gift market and visit with friends. Nominal fee.

Wednesday, May 11
Matter of Balance: A Whitney Wellness Workshop, 10 a.m.-noon., Tuesdays now-July 26 in-person at Whitney Senior Center, 1527 Northway Drive, St. Cloud. www.whitneywellness.org.

Thursday, May 12
Coffee and Conversation, a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Topic: TBD.

Saturday, May 14
Album Release Preview: Neon Lightning by Pamela McNeill, 7:30 p.m., Paramount Center for the Arts, 913 W St. Germain St., St. Cloud. paramountarts.org.

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Courts

from front page

one learns to turn on the light.”

After the tragedy of losing their son, the Bearsons, friends and supporters began the Tom Bearson Foundation to give back to the community. In the past seven years, the 18-member foundation raised \$130,000 for good deeds that included scholarships for students, an annual Tommy B. Night basketball fun fest at the high school, funds for the Sartell Community Center, guest speakers who talked to students about personal-safety strategies and a complete renovation of the gym at St. Francis Xavier School where Bearson, as a boy, loved to play basketball.

Recognition

from front page

tional events, this year’s council introduced new activities targeting mental health.

“Receiving a National Gold Council of Excellence Award shows the utmost dedication a school’s students, leaders,

As his wife sat in the council-chamber audience, Bearson described their son as smart, funny, athletic, popular, kind and generous.

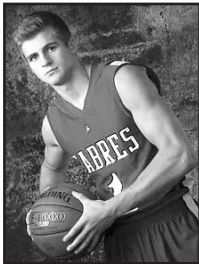
The new full-sized courts, Bearson said, will be a destination for many players from Sartell and beyond. One of the six hoops to be installed will be the hoop Tom Bearson used so often at his home while growing up. During the next few years, spectator seating will be added at the courts, as well as additional landscaping.

After Bearson’s talk, Sartell Administrator Anna Gruber showed a slide of where the courts will be located in Pinecone Central Park and then pointed out several other amenities soon to be constructed in the park: expanded parking by the dog park, ice rink by

and staff have made to making their community a better place,” said Ronn Nozoe of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. “Sartell High School has gone above and beyond in elevating student voices to ensure they are establishing a positive climate and culture, as well as fostering academic and social growth for all.”

To receive the National Gold

flooding that parking lot in winter, new playgrounds and more trails.



Bearson

City-council members expressed excitement and gratitude about the public-private collaboration with the Tom Bearson Foundation.

There are two ways to donate to the Tom Bearson Memorial Basketball Courts project. A check can be sent to Tom Bearson Foundation, P.O. Box 351, Sartell, MN 56377. Online contributions via Paypal can also be made by going to tombearson.org/memorial-basketball-court and then scrolling down to the yellow Paypal “Donate” button.

Council of Excellence Award, a student council must meet a variety of criteria. In addition to basic requirements such as a written constitution, regular meetings and a democratic election process, the council demonstrated successful sponsorship and participation in activities such as leadership development and service to the school and community.

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

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Newsleaders

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

Letter to the editor

Sartell should have a community pool

Ilo S. Waldvogel, Sartell

Sartell should have a community pool. When I was younger one of my favorite summer activities was going to the wading pools here in Sartell. However as I got older

I outgrew the wading pools and wished there was a normal-sized pool my friends and I could go swim in. Having a public community pool would create a place for kids too old for the wading pools to go and swim. Having a community

pool would also create job opportunities for younger adults to lifeguard and manage/clean the pool. A community pool would be beneficial to Sartell and its residents for the enjoyment of swimming and cooling down on a hot summer day.

Gophers

from page 2

He started playing T-ball when he was a student at Kennedy Elementary School in St. Joseph. His family moved to Sartell when he was in first grade. He attended Pine Meadow Elementary, then the middle school and now the high school.

He is the son of Samantha and stepfather Nicholas Hemmesch. Tyler’s biological father is Trent Phelps.

“I always loved baseball,” he said. “So does my dad and my two younger brothers. My mother loves volleyball.”

His brothers are Emmit, 12, who is on a traveling baseball team; and Oliver, 8, who has started pitching in T-ball games. Tyler helps coach Emmit’s traveling team and also Oliver’s T-ball team.

Hemmesch’s favorite school subjects are history and science. When he becomes a U of M student, he will probably aim for a degree in elementary education, he said.

Currently, Hemmesch is recovering from a couple of injuries he suffered this summer.

“It’s OK,” he said. “I’m sure I’ll be better soon. My dream is to play as far up as I can, maybe as a professional. I want to see just how far baseball can take me.”

He credits his parents for encouraging his baseball successes.

“They are always driving me to places, spending extra time with me, giving me tips and my dad giving me good advice.”

When asked what he likes best about baseball, Hemmesch said this: “I like it because one person can’t do it all. Baseball is a team effort and so every team member has to interact.”

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#LiveBetter



Vibes

from front page

asked a friend (Bertsch), if she'd be willing to make a kettle of chicken-noodle soup for a Sartell family. The two parents of three very young children, had been infected with the Covid virus. The soup, Bertsch agreed, would be a good deed of support for that worried family.

Bertsch made and delivered the soup. They were so happy to receive such a thoughtful "gift" from out of the blue, as it were.

Then Bertsch went further. Why not, she wondered, start a "meal train" for that same family? She contacted friends. They heartily agreed and signed on to the effort. In the following two weeks, people brought dinners for the family and snacks for the kids, as well as coloring books and art supplies. Other people pitched in money, and \$200 was given to the family.

"Everybody was so happy to be part of it," Bertsch said.

(Those two parents are now fine, having survived the Covid infection.)

Bertsch decided to extend the acts of kindness, reaching more and more people through two Facebook sites she created – Positive Vibes Sartell and Positive Vibes Sauk Rapids. More meal trains were initiated, and other unique, extraordinary acts of kindness and events continued to multiply here, there and everywhere.

For example:

On April 9, an Easter Egg Hunt was held at Watab Park for 25 children who live in the Sartell Mobile-Home Park across from the post office. Positive Vibes member Emily Wood created a big colorful, whimsical backdrop in front of which hopped a big Easter bunny (member Shane Dixon in a fluffy, big-eared costume). Positive Vibes members Jenn Hengel, I-Jung Lee, Mady Bertsch and Carolyn Bertsch worked with Sartell Mobile Home Park Manager Connie

Dixon to plan the details of the event. Vibes Volunteers hid within the park 600 plastic eggs, with treats inside them. The children scrambled happily to find them. The Bertsches' daughter, Mady, painted the faces of the children.

"It was such a fun event and there were so many smiles," Carolyn said.

Just before Halloween, Bertsch was told about a 10-year-old girl who was diagnosed with diabetes. Positive Vibe members rallied together to purchase toys and gifts. The items were placed in a big Halloween basket and given to the girl on Halloween night. Other baskets were made and delivered to children who were in isolation due to Covid.

On another fall evening, Bertsch received a phone call from a Positive Vibes member who was concerned about a widow who had lost her husband and was feeling isolated and lonely. "Vibes" helpers made sure that woman received lots of cards and messages of friendship and encouragement.

In March, Bertsch's husband, Matt, offered \$50 off duct-cleaning to customers of Four Seasons in exchange for a food-shelf donation of 10 or more items. More than 100 pounds of food was then donated to the Celebration Lutheran Church Free Community Food Shelf.

Last October, Matt organized a clean-up of the woods by Sartell Middle School and Riverview Intermediate. The volunteers were treated to cookies and refreshments. The event, which was scheduled to take place again over Earth Day weekend, was rescheduled due to inclement weather and will take place again at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 1.

On Sunday, May 15 from 2-4 p.m. Positive Vibes participants plan to do rock painting at Sartell's Northside Park, with people bringing rocks and Bertsch supplying paint, markers and brushes. The rocks will be painted with an inspiring message and placed throughout Sartell for people to find surprising, colorful

day-brighteners.

There is great power in positivity and it is contagious in the very best possible way, Bertsch said she believes.

"People can inspire other people. We all count and we can all make a difference," she said. "And when kids do these activities with adults they learn that they can make a difference too."

And such good vibes, she said, are a way to connect different races, cultures and backgrounds. Recently, she took a friend out for coffee. The friend, an American citizen who came from another country, shared an experience of "some real ugliness" that she had endured just because of her skin color.

"I have cried many times over that specific incident that happened right here," Bertsch said. "I wish I would've been there to stand up for her."

That woman, the target of ugliness, told Bertsch that Positive Vibes actions are most welcome and an opportunity for people to connect in order to strive toward a mutual goal.

"Every connection we make in life has influence," Bertsch said.

The Bertsches have three children: Alex, Mady and Adam.

"I like to tell my children you never know where you're going to meet your next best friend," said Carolyn, referring to the surprising open-ended connections made possible by the Positive Vibes program.

Just the other day, a person posted on the Positive Vibes Facebook site: "I love this online community. I feel good being part of it, even if I don't get involved in every effort. It really is what COMMUNITY is all about. I am inspired by the kindness."

Bertsch and other Positive Vibes activists are determined to keep expanding the good vibes to create a nurturing network of caring and kindness throughout the area – and beyond. To get involved or start up a Positive Vibes in your city, phone Bertsch at 320-296-2803 or email positivevibes-sartell@gmail.com.

New editor begins work at Newsleaders

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

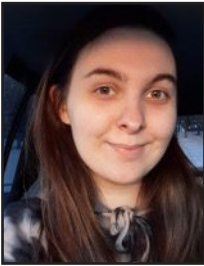
The Newsleader newspapers have a new editor – Erin McIndoo, who grew up in Buffalo, Minnesota.

McIndoo began her new job April 19 and will replace former editor, Leanne Loy, who resigned to pursue her career in English, teaching college courses at St. Cloud State University this fall and serving as teaching assistant for a creative-writing class. Loy was the editor of the Newsleaders for the past year, both the Sartell-St. Stephen one and the St. Joseph one.

The two papers, founded by publisher Janelle Von Pinnon in 1989, have a combined readership of 24,000.

"I am thrilled to bring Erin onboard as my replacement," Loy said. "Erin is enthusiastic about learning the ropes, and her background in journalism is sure to take her far. She has a kind, genuine personality, which I think our readers will love and connect with. I wish her all the best in her new role as editor."

After graduating from Buffalo



McIndoo

High School, McIndoo earned degrees last December in communications and English from Upper Iowa University in

Fayette, a city in northeast Iowa.

She wrote stories for the university newspaper and also conducted interviews and wrote articles for the college's alumni magazine. She also worked at the university writing center in Fayette.

Currently, McIndoo, who lives in St. Cloud, is employed part-time at the Sherwin-Williams paint store in Waite Park.

She loves the outdoors, the natural world, hiking, biking, reading, writing and respects and cherishes animals. She is a vegan, which is someone who abstains from consuming animal products in one's diet.

"Right now I'm trying to get some experience, to get my feet wet in the (newspaper) business," McIndoo said.

People

Ava Williams, Sartell, a first-year video production major at the University of Wisconsin-Stout has been named to the 2021-2022 softball team.

Williams will play middle infield. To learn more about the team, go to stoutbluedevils.com/sports/softball.

Check DNR website before burning debris

by Dennis Dalman
news@thenewsleaders.com

Burning is restricted in a portion of Minnesota that includes Stearns, Benton and Sherburne counties, as announced by the Department of Natural Resources.

Under the restriction, burning is allowed only with a variance permit.

The burning restriction means nobody should be burning brush or yard waste until the restriction is lifted.

The following are the DNR burning designations in Minnesota: No permit required, permits required, restricted (variance permits only), restricted (agency-approved permits only), No open burning (campfires allowed), No open burning (no campfires allowed).

Only the first three designations were assigned to Minnesota as of April 19, but they are subject to change, depending, of course, on

weather conditions.

The DNR announced burning restrictions April 11 due to an increased risk of wildfires in dry conditions and strong winds.

"Wildfire risk increases each year after the snow melts and before grass greens up," said Allissa Reynolds, the DNR wildfire-prevention supervisor. "Spring burning restrictions help to reduce the number of wildfires caused by debris burning."

Reynolds said it's best for residents to use alternative methods of getting rid of debris, such as composting, wood chipping, taking brush to a collection site – or leaving debris where it is until if and when burning restrictions are lifted.

According to the DNR, 90 percent of wildfires are caused by people burning in dry conditions.

For more about burning restrictions and how to check them daily, visit the DNR website at dnr.state.mn.us.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Gemma Little, 7, throws a hand on her hip as Liza Schwamppach plants a smooch on the Easter Bunny's nose April 9 at the Positive Vibes Easter Event at Watab Park. Rumor has it that Schwamppach and Little know the Easter Bunny quite well! All are from Sartell.

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Local Events

You’re never truly finished finding unique things about the town you live in. To see a side of your local community that you may not have experienced, keep an eye out for local events like fairs, festivals and craft shows.



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Participation will introduce you to new passions, hobbies and create incredible networking opportunities. Events offer a chance to bring the community together and celebrate what makes its residents unique.

An excellent way to discover upcoming gatherings is by joining community pages on social networking channels. You can find concerts performed by local musicians, events hosted by various restaurants or food trucks, and showcases for artists to sell their creations. Celebrate the distinctive traits of your town and the extraordinary people who help the economy tick.

FIND A FESTIVAL

When a music festival comes to town, local vendors and business owners unite to show off their goods to attendees. An in-town event offers a great chance to catch a well-known live band or indulge in

your favorite local acts. Indulge in festive foods, reconnect with old friends and revisit your childhood in a fun and engaging atmosphere. Being a part of the magic also helps build a sense of bond throughout the community and celebrate dishes and traditions that make the location special.

CELEBRATE THE ARTS

Show your appreciation for creativity by contributing to causes like museum exhibitions, orchestras and art shows. Events that celebrate your area’s creativity can produce significant growth in terms of revenue and tax concessions. According to the Americans for the Arts organi-

zation, communities with arts and culture strategies are seen safer by their residents. They also report more positive relationships between citizens and police as the arts are thought to bridge the two parties together.

BOOST THE ECONOMY

As exciting events take form

around your community, support its potential success by inviting family and friends from out of town. Spread the word to help draw more people to spend their money on unique goods and homegrown services in your local area. The additional funds can cause a substantial increase throughout the local economy.

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Business and the Community

Through hiring employees to giving back to their communities, local business owners play a formative role in shaping the region around them.

Many local small businesses are operated by people who grew up in the community and decided to open their shop or service in their hometown.

This instantly gives residents a personal connection with the owner and employees and creates a trusting relationship when offering knowledge about their product.

When you spend your money within their doors, think of it as neighbors helping neighbors.

Small businesses are often considered the backbones of their communities. According to the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, when \$100 is spent locally, \$58 remains in the area to boost the economy.

In contrast, if the same amount of money is paid at a chain store, the local area typically only keeps about \$33. Find out other ways that local business owners help the region in which they operate.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Since many small business owners live and work in the community, they are likely to volunteer during local

events, sponsor youth sports teams and mentor other entrepreneurs. A recent report from Small Business Trends also shows that about 52% of operation owners donate to charity, with 90% of their contributions benefiting local causes.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

In many areas, locally owned businesses set up shop in the downtown area of their community.

Owners cause less impact on the environment by revitalizing historic landscapes, updating to energy efficient appliances and upgrading lighting systems rather than building new structures.

The Environmental Protection Agency suggests that clusters of small

businesses in a walkable area can reduce car usage while encouraging green transportation modes like walking or bicycling. Buying local also cuts down on demand for industrial production, which is responsible for about 50% of pollution in the United States.

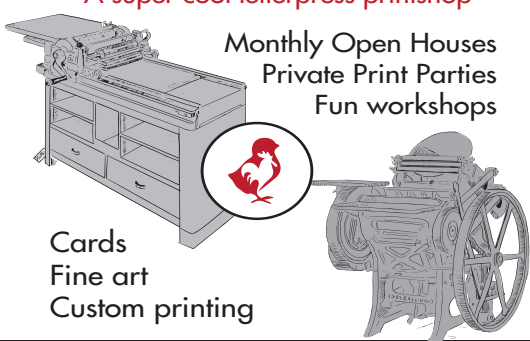
CREATES LOCAL COMPETITION

When businesses strive to compete with other companies and solve problems with innovative solutions, the entire community wins. Prices must remain competitive to stay relevant to consumers, and owner-operators will continue to reinvent their current products or services and push the envelope to create a more enjoyable experience.

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PUBLIC NOITICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING • SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748
MARCH 21, 2022 • DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER BOARDROOM

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

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

During the public comment opportunity four members of the community addressed the School Board. Peter J. Wilson, spoke on the topic of soccer field issues and CRT; Steve Kron, spoke on the topics of EESE election; Chris Yasgar, spoke on the topic of signage; Bennett Prose, spoke on the topic of replacing the pride stickers with descriptive signs.

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

A.4.a.Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on Feb. 28, 2022

A.4.bChecks in the amount of \$876,849.56 as presented:		
General Fund	538,475.28	
Food Service Fund	88,374.41	
Transportation Fund	192,200.87	
Community Service Fund	4,302.15	
Capital Expenditure Fund	46,124.13	
Activity Accounts	2,004.19	
Internal Service Fund	5,368.53	
Check numbers 183231 – 183403		

ACHs in the amount of \$4,686.79 as presented:		
General Fund	4,078.93	
Transportation Fund	90.00	
Activity Accounts	517.86	
ACH numbers 212200154-212200167		

Receipts in the amount of \$4,241,262.03 as presented:		
General Fund	3,852,619.84	
Food Service Fund	309,485.00	
Community Service Fund	34,632.17	
Capital Expenditure Fund	24,795.50	
Building Fund	38.72	
Activity Accounts	6,416.00	
Internal Service Fund	13,274.80	
Receipts 50011 - 50138		

Wire transfers in the amount of \$1,527,495.64 as presented:		
General Fund	1,001,233.78	
Food Service Fund	44,204.99	
Transportation Fund	19,691.26	
Community Service Fund	25,622.14	
Capital Expenditure Fund	3,205.25	
Activity Accounts	779.97	
Internal Service Fund	432,758.25	
Wire transfers 202122584 – 202122651		

A.4.c Approve resolution accepting the following donations; Heidi and Craig Hiltner, Oak Ridge Early Learning Center, PRC Accent 800 SLP equipment, donation to SPED Department; Wee Trees – Richard and Rosie Warzecha, Pine Meadow Primary, \$150, general donation.

A.4.dAccept the resignation of Anja Hanson, SMS, para, 3/14/22; Ben Hoffman, SHS, science, 6/7/22; Marilyn Kaiser, Transportation, bus driver, 3/25/22; Kay Nelson, District, assistant superintendent, 6/30/22; Matthew Oleson, para, SMS, 3/4/22; Joseph Vanek, SHS, FCS, 3/28/22. Accept the retirements of Laura Solt, SHS, head cook, 6/3/22; Kelly Haws, RIS, SPED, 6/7/22.

Student Representative Report:
• Student Representative Kate Ellis reported Oak Ridge students will hold schoolwide Bingo to celebrate the completed Sabre Strong competitions. Students are looking forward to a return to field trips this spring. Pine Meadow students celebrated “I Love to Read” month with the Sartell mayor and St. Stephen fire chief as some of the guests readers. Students participated in the American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge and raised more than \$21,000. River-view Intermediate students also celebrated “I Love to Read” month

by having a March Madness 16-book bracket competition and will also hold a schoolwide Bingo event. Sartell Middle School students performed the musical “Dear Edwina Jr!” this past weekend, which Ellis said she thought was fantastic. Students will compete against staff in a basketball contest this week. Sartell High School students are finishing third quarter this week and fourth quarter will start after spring break. The NHS induction banquet will be at 7 p.m. April 11 for new members and Student Council will hold their banquet next month. Student Council had 68 participants in their blood drive. The prom and graduation student committees are continuing to plan for prom and this year’s graduation.

Superintendent Report:
• Ridlehoover reported on happenings around the district. The District has come to a new contract with the teachers. The District continues to increase teacher and staff leadership through the BILT and BOLT teams being formed for the 2022-23 school year. Ridlehoover had the opportunity to meet with local legislative representatives to discuss the next legislative session. Topics included lowering property taxes, the special education cross subsidy and mental health services. This past month he had the opportunity to be a mystery reader at Oak Ridge, attend the local Chamber of Commerce meeting, participate in the food truck challenge at the high school and sub at Riverview Intermediate. Congratulations to Dr. Megan Rogholt for being named one of the 10 emerging leaders from Minnesota Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development and Kay Nelson for being named the 2022 Outstanding Central Office Leader from the Minnesota Association of School Administration. Nick Peterson will return to his role as assistant principal at Sartell High School and the District will be hiring a new activities director. Ridlehoover welcomed Shayne Kusler as the new principal of Sartell High School; Kusler was in attendance and introduced himself to the school board.

Educational Equity and Student Experience Committee Report:
• Superintendent Ridlehoover provided an update on the committee’s progress and process the committee is going through.

Sartell Senior Connection Presentation:
• Maggie Kraemer and members of the Sartell Senior Connection presented a brief history of the group.

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

School Board Committee Report:
• Vice Chair Moehrle reported on the SEE legislative update he received, topics included the potential school levy tax relief bill.
• Clerk Snoberger participated in the virtual day at the capital with MSBA.
• Treasurer Meling reported on Communications and the changes to the Spotlight Newsletter, the City of Sartell and School District technology partnership and the upcoming community survey.
• Director Byrd reported on the Career and Tech meeting she attended. Topics included the three FTEs working on the schedule for next year and the future location of the Habitat for Humanity project. There will be a dedication in May for the current site.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by Nies to APPROVE #1-10:

New Employees/Changes:
Aaron Athas, District, summer school coordinator, \$4,500 stipend, new position, 6/15/2022; Christopher Euteneuer, District, groundskeeper, \$22.68/hour, RIII, S5, 8 hours/day, 260 days/year, replacing David Murtley, 4/18/2022; Angela Fasen, SMS, food service worker, \$16.20/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Julie Peabody, 3/1/2022; Montana Peters, District, ESY coordinator, \$4,500 stipend, new position, 6/15/2022; Sue Symanietz, ORELCL, parent educator, \$32.50/hour, replacing Lynn Tchida, 2/10/2022; Sue Symanietz, SHS, FCS-LTS, \$15,084 (MA30, Step R), .185 FTE, replacing Joey Vanek, 4/4/2022.

Leaves of Absence:
Nicoline Hill, ORELCL, para, LOA, 3/8/22-4/8/22; Jennifer Madrigal, SHS, Spanish, LOA, 3/24/22-6/7/22 intermittent; Nancy Nieters, PMPS, para, LOA, 3/7/22-6/3/22; Maria Schomer, SHS, Business, LOA, 4/14/22-5/6/22.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Moehrle and seconded by Byrd TO APPROVE RESOLUTION ALLOWING FOR POTENTIAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Snoberger and seconded by Nies TO APPROVE THE 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 CONTRACT WITH THE SARTELL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (SEA). All in favor. Motion carried.

• Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:
• Future Operations Committee Meeting – Thursday, March 24 @ District Service Center – 9 a.m.
• Future Policy Committee Meeting – Tuesday, April 12 @ District Service Center – 4 p.m.
Future Regular Board Meeting – Monday, April 18 @ District Service Center - 6:30 p.m.

Official Review of Policies:

The Board had the second reading of revision of policy 503 and sent the policy back to the committee to be updated by the Policy Committee.

Committee Assignments were reviewed.

Chair Marushin commented on the process of the signage and stickers in regards to the signage and stickers topics addressed during the public forum.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:22 p.m. was made by Nies and seconded by Byrd. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Jeremy Snoberger, clerk

Publish: April 29, 2022

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Opinion

Our View

The bees’ needs are our needs

If you’ve ever been stung by a bee before you know how painful and unpleasant this can be. If you happen to be allergic to them this pain escalates and without the proper medicine readily available to you, could even cause death. But did you know without these little pests, our quality of life would be drastically reduced?

As unpleasant as it can be with them around, we actually need bees to survive. Bees are an integral part of our ecosystems. Their pollination helps the growth of some of our favorite fruits and vegetables such as avocados, squash and watermelons, not to mention some nuts as well.

While some have claimed the human race could not go on if bees went extinct, the truth is we could survive on the fruits and vegetables that do not need pollination. However, while losing bees might not be as dire as some have made it, we do know that a lot of our nutritious and delicious vegetation that needs that pollination would cease to exist. We would actually lose a lot of our healthy food sources that provide essential vitamins to our overall health. That, in a nutshell, should be important enough to all of us to save our bees.

So, what can we do? Most people don’t want a swarm of bees ruining their outdoor fun or family gatherings. But there are ways to protect the bees while not taking away from your summer pleasures.

You can start by planting a bee garden in an area of your yard where you might not spend a lot of time. This will attract bees to just that area and provide the much-needed nectar for them. Some flowers that are most beneficial to bees are zinnias, lavender and poppies to name a few.

Another thing to consider is leaving those dandelions alone when they first come up. Some might think of dandelions as just an unsightly weed, but in reality, they are often one of the first food sources for bees in the spring and can be a huge benefit to their survival. So instead of mowing them down right away, give the bees a chance to get some nutrition from them first.

No one likes weeds in their flower and vegetable gardens, and it has become a common practice to use pesticides and herbicides to avoid them at all costs. But the use of these chemicals is extremely dangerous to our bees and wreaks havoc on their sensitive little bodies. Reducing your use of these chemicals or omitting them completely would help ensure the pollen our bees are getting would not be harmful to them in any way.

It might not be the most convenient for us to protect these little guys, but the alternative is living without some of our most favorite foods. Living with a few weeds here and there will hurt no one in the long run, but losing some of our most nutritious foods for good will surely hurt us all.

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.

In heaven, Marcy gets flyswatter, pierogi

When Marcy Rhea was born on April 5, 1947 in Indiana, Pennsylvania, she immediately told the doctor the 16 ways on how he handled the delivery wrong.

The nurses did a fine job, though, she quickly added.

Those words are from one of those rarities – a hilarious obituary. A friend emailed it to me a couple weeks ago, and what a hoot it was to read!

Martha Ann (Rhea) Schewe (aka Marcy, Murphy, Tractor Mimi, Big Gramma, Pizza Grandma and MA!) died in Danube, Minnesota, March 4, 2022.

From the obit, we learn the following:

When Marcy arrived at the Pearly Gates, her parents welcomed her with a flyswatter and a hot plate of pierogi.

When she was a girl, she walked two miles uphill, both ways, past a heavily wooded area, on a bear-infested road to her bus stop. During her walk, she delivered milk to neighbors from her parents’ dairy farm.

After high school, she traveled to Washington, D.C. where she worked as a secretary for the Federal Aviation Administration.

“Always a modern woman, Marcy started attending dances where she knew handsome soldiers would be packed wall to wall. There she met baby-faced Jim Schewe, whom she fancied enough to card. That didn’t faze her someday-husband one bit. He knew he was of age and he knew he liked her spunk.”

Dennis Dalman

Reporter



Jim and Marcy were destined to be together, even though they survived a near break-up over the original “Batman” TV series (he loved watching it; she didn’t love him watching it).

When they were dating long-distance (Jim was in the military in Germany), he sent her an engagement ring that arrived on Friday the 13th, and she couldn’t bring herself to open the package. Next day she did and slipped the ring on her finger.

“Her soldier boy finally returned and Marcy married the man of her dreams – well, most of her dreams. She thought she had finally escaped farm life but began to suspect otherwise when Jim insisted on visiting a bull-breeding place during their honeymoon.

“After a brief stint in Pennsylvania (Jim wondered how a guy was supposed to see where he was going with all those Pennsylvanian hills in the way), the newly married couple moved back to Minnesota so they could (you guessed it) farm.

“Marcy and Jim produced a brood of farm hands: Jim, Deb, Renae, Toni and Jeff . . . She filled decades of life with conversation, farm work, raising generations of children (whom

Trying to watch Twins becoming headache

Connor Kockler

Guest writer



Changing our TV provider at home just to get one channel would be a major inconvenience, especially since the whole point of switching away from traditional cable or satellite TV is to try and save money and only have to pay for channels you actually want to watch. Switching to DirectTV or Spectrum for example would be more expensive than what we currently have and involve paying for additional channels as well as Bally.

Are there any other options then to get Twins games as a standalone option you may ask? After all, there are many services now like ESPN+ or Paramount+ that allow for watching certain live or on-demand shows independent of a content provider. The answer to that question is also unfortunately no. There is a streaming service called MLB.TV that allows you to just pay for MLB games and other content. But there is a catch to this. MLB.TV does not allow you to watch in-market games. So if you were a Twins fan that lived in Florida, you can watch the Twins live on MLB.TV, but not if you live in Minnesota since you’re living within the Bally Sports market.

she loved exponentially more the younger they got), auctions, coffee, church, flirting with her husband, grumbling about the squirrels, making bars (“Cherry Bars on a Cloud!”), genealogy, flowers, heading to Max’s with her beloved church family, helping those in need, road-tripping with her husband, defending the underdog (while wondering why her children are so outspoken), refinishing floors & cabinets, figuring out selfies/Facebook, SnapChat so she could keep up with the children, and – if the occasion arose – playing a mean game of Sequence.

“Marcy’s fierce and vibrant spirit is carried on by her soulmate Jim, five children, nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, seven siblings, a handful of hated squirrels, a menagerie of farm animals and a whole world of longtime friends, some of whom she hadn’t gotten around to meeting yet.”

The obit states Marcy “entered eternal life so her husband would be blessed with the memory of their 54 joyful and loving years together every year on his birthday.”

After reading that sardonic tribute and laughing all the way, I felt as if I’d almost known that whirlwind hoot of a woman. The obituary made Marcy pop right back to life, bouncing and leaping right off the page. At the Pearly Gates, they must be laughing loudly now, right along with Marcy.

Gotta love it!

I have heard some news stories that Bally may be moving to start their own streaming service so fans can pay for them directly. This would be an exciting prospect but so far it has not been set up yet. The price may also be expensive, with a report saying it could cost around \$23 a month. Being able to pay just for Bally Sports and not having to include additional channels or switch services would be a great benefit though despite the price if that is all someone really wants to watch.

So while there may be some increase in potential viewing options for the Twins soon, the current situation is still not great. I think it reflects the issues that have emerged with TV and streaming options today as well. Now we have so many streaming services and companies wanting to sell their content exclusively, it is becoming harder and harder to just be able to pay for one bundle of what we’d like to watch. Now, we might need to add more and more subscriptions just to watch the same things we were able to previously. The Twins and other Minnesota sports teams should be aware, if they want more people to be able to watch their games, they should make it easier for people to get them on their screens in the first place.

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

Microchipping your Pet

Microchips are electronic chips enclosed in glass, about the size of a grain of rice, that carry information about your pet and you, its owner.

They're helpful in case your pet gets lost. The chip doesn't have a battery. Instead, it's activated by a scanner to transmit the information.

HOW TO MICROCHIP YOUR PET

Your veterinarian can microchip your pet. A hypodermic needle injects the chip under the skin, and it's no more painful than your dog's usual vaccinations. No surgery or anesthesia is required, though the vet can do it while your pet is anesthetized for other procedures, such as spaying or neutering or dental treatments.

The microchip usually only includes an identification number and cannot track your pet if it gets lost. The vet scanning the chip will contact the chip's maker, give them the identification number, and that service will pass on your information to the vet.

MICROCHIPS AND PRIVACY

Remember, these chips don't have tracking devices and can't be used to track you or your pet. The information



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you provide to the manufacturer's registry will only be used to contact you in the event your pet becomes lost and is found. You can usually choose to opt into or out of any other communications from that manufacturer.

Having the microchip placed is only the first step,

and it's up to you to register and maintain the information on file.

MICROCHIPS AND LOST PETS

When a stray animal is found, usually one of the first things animal control, shelters or the vet will do is scan it

for a microchip. If your information is current, you can be reached quickly and reunited with your lost family member.

A study of more than 7,700 stray animals at shelters showed that dogs without microchips were returned to their owners 21.9% of the time, whereas microchipped

dogs were returned more than half of the time, the American Veterinary Medical Association said. For microchipped animals that weren't returned to their owners, it was usually because of incorrect owner information, so don't forget to register and update your information.

Pine Cone Pet Hospital

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



Dealing with Identity Theft

Did you lose your wallet? Get hacked? Become part of a larger data breach? You're not alone.

In fact, identity theft and fraud can impact as many as 5 million Americans a year, according to the Federal Trade Commission. Consumers may experience devastating financial losses, while watching their credit score plummet through no fault of their own. Here's what to do.

CONTACT THE AUTHORITIES

Begin by detailing your identity theft to the FTC, either online via IdentityTheft.gov or by phone at (877) 438-4338. They'll help you create a report that verifies your situation for banks, businesses and creditors. They will also establish a personal recovery plan, based on your specific situation. You may also need to contact the local police, in particular if you know the identity of the thief. Some creditors may require a police report.

CREDIT REPORTING

Contact personnel from any of the national credit bureaus at Equifax, Experian and TransUnion to place a fraud alert on your credit report. The other bureaus will be automatically notified. If the problem persists, there is a longer-term reporting option



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that lasts seven years. A copy of the FTC Theft Report must be sent to each bureau to set that in motion.

OTHER CONTACTS

You'll need to get in touch with the fraud department with your personal bank and credit-card companies. Report the crime to retailers and any other place where you have an

account. In some cases, you may need to alert your employer or potential employer, as well. In cases of medical-identity theft for those on Medicare, contact their offices directly. Report tax ID theft to the IRS, and unemployment identity theft to the labor department in your state. Alert the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource

Center if the theft occurred at a nursing home or other similar facility.

SAFETY TIPS

Never carry your Social Security card in a purse or wallet. Be careful about sharing key personal information — which also includes your birthdate and bank-account number. Pay attention to bill-

ing cycles, and what's being taken out. If the regular due amount changes, or if the bill itself arrives late, that can be an early signal of identity theft. Don't bank online when using public Wi-Fi. Shred credit offers, receipts, expired cards and account statements to keep dumpster divers from having access to key financial data.



You earned it.

We can protect it.

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