

# Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, May 27, 2022  
Volume 27, Issue 11  
Est. 1995

## Town Crier

### Sartell Farmers' Market open Mondays all season

Sartell Farmers' Market is now open for the season from 3-6 p.m. each Monday in Bernick's Ice Arena Parking Lot, 1109 First St. S. along Pinecone Road N. If you have not had a chance to stop by yet, Memorial Day is a great day to drop in and check out the great selection available at the market. Some of the great items you will find include: eggs, beef, chicken, asparagus, plants, canned goods, caramel corn, coffee, honey, soaps and much more. Come meet the new vendors joining the market this season and spend some time talking to the people who grow and produce your food.

### Blood donor ambassadors sought

Do you want to help with lifesaving blood collections? Volunteer at blood drives throughout the Central Minnesota area! The American Red Cross has a high-priority need for blood donor ambassadors to continue delivering services to our communities. These volunteers welcome visitors to blood drives, follow COVID-19 safety procedures, help donors check in and encourage them to rest after their donation. They can use your help now. Please note all in-person volunteer personnel must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and submit a photo of vaccination card in order to move forward with the volunteer onboarding process. If you are interested, please contact Volunteer Services at [mndakvolunteer@redcross.org](mailto:mndakvolunteer@redcross.org) or 612-463-6587.

### Seniors RSVP seeks volunteers

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers serve directly with nonprofit organizations to tackle our nation's most pressing challenges. They offer a variety of one-time and on-going volunteer opportunities within 150 regional sites. There is no cost or minimum number of service hours for RSVP volunteers. If you are age 55+ and live in Stearns, Benton, Sherburne or Wright counties, contact them today to learn more. Email [rsvp@ci.stcloud.mn.us](mailto:rsvp@ci.stcloud.mn.us) or call 320-255-7295.

**INSERTS:**  
**City of St. Stephen**  
**Lily's, Wings & Things**

## Student marchers tell of bullying, harassment, threats



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Students set off on their March for Solidarity May 14 in Sartell. The marchers, who intended to bring attention to harassment and bullying incidents in schools, held a speakers' rally outside of Sartell City Hall.

## New activities director selected for Sartell High School

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

A St. Cloud State University athletics administrator and coach has been hired as Sartell



Thompson

High School's new activities director.

Bruce Thompson, currently the associate director of athletics at SCSU, previously held a variety of leadership positions in higher education, including athletic coordinator, assistant athletic director and head coach. He will start as activities director on July 1.

"The hiring committee was impressed by Bruce's experience, communication skills and his vision for a comprehensive activities department that highlights activities, athletics and the fine arts," said Sartell-St. Stephen superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover in a statement.

Nick Peterson has been serving as interim activities

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

A March for Solidarity May 14 by Sartell High School students and a rally midway through the march brought impassioned accusations of slurs, bullying and threats aimed at students of color and those perceived as "different" for one reason or another.

About 150 people – students and some adults – joined the march, which began at the parking lot of Celebration Lutheran Church and continued to Sartell City Hall where the rally took place. Most of the students in the march live in Sartell, but some who participated are from Sauk Rapids and St. Cloud. At the rally, students gave examples of how they had been objects of derision by other groups of students.

The march was organized

**Marchers • page 7**

## Oak Ridge has new principal

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

Julia Bjerke has been selected as the new principal at Oak Ridge Early Learning Center.



Bjerke

Bjerke has worked in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district for several years including as a prekindergarten instructional coach, instructional technology specialist, as the Early Childhood coordinator and reading specialist at Sartell Middle School.

**Principal • page 4**



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

### Big puddles follow rainstorm

Friends jump in a deep puddle which formed near the playground May 12 at Riverview Intermediate School following severe thunderstorms. They are (left to right) Adley Wolford, 9; Cody Doble, 10; Colin McCann, 9; and Landon Schaffler, 10, all of Sartell.





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photo by Carolyn Bertsch

## Club gives away 1,250 trees

St. Stephen Sportsman Club members Joe Lichy (left) of Sartell and Jake Vouk of Waite Park bag up a fruit tree May 15 for Alice DeLane of St. Stephen. The club gave away 1,250 conifers and deciduous trees.

## 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.*

### Wednesday, June 1

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

### Thursday, June 2

**Coffee and Conversation,**  
a senior discussion group, 9 a.m., Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Topic: Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Chad Johnson.

### Monday, June 6

**Sartell Lions Club,** 6:30 p.m., upstairs of Blue Line Sports Bar and Grill, 1101 Second St. S., Sartell. Contact Stewart Giffin at 651-261-4272 regarding meeting details.

### Tuesday, June 7

**Memory Writers Group,** 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. This program is free to Museum members (non-members, nominal fee). Contact Jan Sorell for more information: jsorell@gmail.com.

### Wednesday, June 8

**Sartell Citywide Garage Sale,** June 8-11.

### Thursday, June 9

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

Author Joy L. Carlson.

### Saturday, June 11

**Libertyville Summerfest,** 11 a.m., City Hall parking lot, City of Sartell, 10 a.m. Parade, 11 a.m. Libertyville and barbeque, 6:30 p.m. Street dance, 10:15 p.m. Fireworks. Giant inflatables, crazy hairdos, face painting and airbrush tattoos.

**Whippersnapper Hour,** 10-11:30 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S., St. Cloud. Kids ages 7-13 are invited for a crash course at the Spy School! Kids will learn about secret spy tactics during World War II, including Morse Code, writing messages with invisible ink and solving a mystery at the museum. Members are free, non-members nominal fee. Visit [www.stearnshistorymuseum.org](http://www.stearnshistorymuseum.org) for more information.



The mission of Tri-CAP is to enhance and expand opportunities for the economic and social well-being of our residents and our communities.

## Workforce Development Manager Wanted

Tri-CAP is looking for a passionate, energetic, committed individual to join us! This person will supervise staff and will oversee Tri-CAP's Workforce Development and Self-Sufficiency Programs, as well as outreach services for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and others. Primary responsibilities of this full-time, exempt position based in Waite Park will include:  
\*Development and implement workforce development-specific policies and procedures.  
\*Oversee development of curriculum for workforce development programs, employment plans, life-skills classes, case management, volunteer training, etc.  
\*Assist in program budget development and monitoring.  
\*Build relationships with area human service agencies to stay abreast of activities, trends and collaborative efforts.  
\*Supervision of staff, internship and volunteer assignments in the department, performance evaluation, corrective action as necessary, etc.  
\*Ensure holistic case management services are provided to clients.  
\*Represent Tri-CAP on community-based committees with agency partners.  
\*Facilitate community presentations about Tri-CAP and specific program services as requested.  
\*Assist in program planning, goal setting, evaluation plans, measuring outcomes, reporting program activities to funders as necessary.

**Starting salary: \$50,773-\$57,117 annually, includes comprehensive benefits package and training!**

### Qualifications:

- \*Minimum of a bachelor's degree in social work/human services or related field and two years of experience or a combination of five (5) years' experience and/or education.
- \*Two years supervisory experience.
- \*Knowledge of case management best practices.
- \*Proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite, client data software.
- \*Strong communication and presentation skills.
- \*Strong organizational skills and ability to prioritize.
- \*Ability to build relationships with community partners and volunteers. Identify barriers that impact low-income individuals.
- \*Experience with career planning, workforce development programs, preferred.
- \*Hybrid work arrangement involving both telecommuting and in-office environments.
- \*Ability to travel in four-county service area.

### To apply:

Apply online via our website: [www.tricap.org](http://www.tricap.org) or call our office to request an application or email [hr@tricap.org](mailto:hr@tricap.org). Deadline for applications is Friday, May 27, 2022.



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# School equity report recommends wide range of actions

by Mike Knaak  
news@thenewsleaders.com

An effort that started after the murder of George Floyd to examine racism, bullying and social media in Sartell schools has led to a sweeping action plan that touches all aspects of student life inside and outside the classroom.

The final report and action plan produced by the 96-member Educational Equity and Student Experience Committee recommends dozens of actions on 10 topics to address issues in the Sartell-St. Stephen school district. Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover presented the details at a meeting May 11.

“We want to create the most amazing student experience for every child who walks through our doors,” Ridlehoover said about the committee’s holistic approach. “We looked at this as it related to student experience and how kids feel when they walk into our schools.”

The committee first met in September and brainstormed about three dozen issues and priorities. During the past few

months, the committee honed the list down to 10.

The complete report is available on the district’s website at [www.isd748.org/Page/501](http://www.isd748.org/Page/501).

Ridlehoover said some of the actions are already in place while others will be implemented during the next few months.

The 10 topics are: Activities, Communications and School/Home Partnerships, Culture and Climate, Curriculum and Instruction, Harassment and Bullying, Social Media, Special Education, Student Support Services, Technology and Transitions Between Buildings.

Recommended actions include ideas that arose during listening sessions, school board meetings and the committee’s brainstorming. Some of the actions reach beyond the schools for community resources and partnerships.

For example, student mental health will be the focus of a prekindergarten through grade 12 mental-health advocate, the addition of a fourth counselor at the high school and the addition of a kindergarten through grade 12 school-linked counsel-

or through the Central Minnesota Mental Health Center.

The Activities list of actions includes encouraging participation and creating connections between activities, clubs and sports. To ease the financial burden of participation on parents, the fee structure will be reviewed to limit family maximum payments, and limit or decrease the ancillary costs of participation.

The Climate and Culture actions include partnering with students, families, staff and community members, local religious and civic organizations to provide opportunities to learn about racial and cultural similarities and differences that exist within the community, region and global society. These opportunities may include school/community presentations, student programs and/or community social gatherings.

The district intends to “hire the most qualified teachers and support staff to meet the needs of students and identify and actively recruit candidates who represent and reflect all students.”

Excellence will be defined by an individual’s personal growth as demonstrated in multiple ways that include academic, social and character attainment. Student achievements will be highlighted to recognize multiple talents and pathways including career and technical education, performing arts and service learning.

The curriculum will be reviewed to ensure academic standards are being taught through a variety of cultural perspectives in history, literature and other subjects, investigate the opportunity to expand elective offerings, and start a procedure for student and parent/guardian feedback related to curricular materials.

To deal with bullying, teachers will be trained to use restorative practices in all grades to build empathy, kindness and understanding. The action plan directs engagement by student government, staff and building principals to clearly address issues such as racism, sexism, marginalizing students with special needs and building the capacity of students and staff to

address behaviors that demean, devalue or otherwise make individuals or groups feel unsafe or marginalized.

To acknowledge that bullying complaints are being addressed, a clear, easy-to-follow practice for families to understand the complaint process will be started. This will include conversations and documentation from building principals to the families of all parties involved in a formal complaint.

Expanding on a plan already in place for next fall, action steps call for increased student support as they move through the grades and between buildings. There are detailed plans for visits, tours, meetings with teachers and staff, and communication between teachers about each student.

In summarizing the report, Ridlehoover said “every kid matters. Some will say you didn’t go far enough, some will say we went too far.” He said the committee asked “what is our current reality and what are our desired outcomes.”

## Blotter

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

### May 7

11:23 p.m. Verbal dispute. Amber Avenue S. A resident reported a woman yelling for help. Officers checked the hallways and could hear a loud argument coming from an apartment. A man and a woman were having an argument. Officers assisted with getting the woman’s keys to the residence in case she wanted to leave. The two parties did not need anything further from the officers. They were advised to keep it down and to call if either needed help.

### May 8

8:41 p.m. Domestic. CR 120. Officers were called to a disturbance in a vehicle in a business parking lot. The caller stated it was physical and there was a woman screaming from the back seat of a minivan. Officers found both parties. The man said his sister became upset over a cash app and began kicking him in the back from the middle passenger seat while he was in the front seat. The man denied hitting her back in self-defense. Another officer spoke to the woman who gave the same story as the

man. The man did not want anything done about the situation. The officers told both parties to call if they needed any further assistance.

### May 9

12:44 a.m. Gunshots. Amber Avenue S. A resident reported what were believed to be gunshots in an apartment building. Multiple officers responded to the location and canvassed the building. No other sounds were heard while on scene, but dispatch did receive other calls. One resident thought it could have been a vehicle backfiring in the parking lot. Officers waited in the area for a while to ensure there were no further noise issues.

### May 12

10:48 a.m. Traffic stop. 13th Avenue N. An officer saw a vehicle and driver known to him from previous contacts. The officer noticed the vehicle’s registration was expired and the woman’s driving status was revoked. The officer stopped the vehicle. The woman told the officer she knew she should not be driving but wanted to go to garage sales. The offi-

cer ran the woman through dispatch and learned she had a misdemeanor warrant and multiple driving-after-suspension incidents. The woman has been deemed a habitual violator by the state of Minnesota. The officer contacted the Stearns County Jail to see if they would accept the woman with current Covid restrictions and the officer was informed they would. As the woman was taken into custody, she handed the officer drug paraphernalia she had previously concealed. The woman was transported to the jail, booked and held for court.

### May 13

12:25 a.m. Stalled vehicle. Grizzly Lane. A vehicle stalled in the flooded road. The officer found a man outside the vehicle walking around it. The man identified himself to the officer as the son to the driver and he told the officer his father was the driver. The parties tried jumping the vehicle with no luck. A tow was called for the vehicle. During the interaction, the officer learned the son had a gross misdemeanor theft

**Blotter • page 8**

## Sartell sixth-grader going to the National History Bee

by Mike Knaak  
news@thenewsleaders.com

A sixth-grader at Sartell Middle School qualified for the History Bee’s Middle and Elementary School National Championships in Orlando, Florida, in June.



**Knoernschild**

Isaac Knoernschild is one of nine competitors from the Midwest.

After qualifying through an online test in February, Knoernschild advanced to the regional

competition at the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities where he competed in three preliminary rounds each consisting of 35 advanced-level history questions. The national competition will consist of a live question-and-answer round.

“We are so proud of Isaac and his accomplishments,” said Sartell Middle School Principal Laura Arndt in a statement. “We wish him good luck as he prepares and participates in this high-level competition.”

Isaac is the son of Nathan Knoernschild and Ellen Wolter of Sartell.

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Obituary

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Robert Lee “Bob” Bidinger, 81  
Sartell  
May 8, 1941-May13, 2022**

Robert L. “Bob” Bidinger, 81, of Sartell died May 13 at his home after a long battle with cancer surrounded by his family. His funeral was held May 20 at St. Francis Xavier Church in Sartell. The Rev.



Bidinger

Ronald Weyrens officiated and burial was in the parish cemetery. Bidinger was born May 8, 1941 in St. Cloud to Fredrick and Loretta (Theisen) Bidinger. He married Violet “Vi” McNeal on June 20, 1961 and they were members of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church. Bidinger enjoyed camping, fishing, playing cards and spending time with his family. He will always be remembered for his quick witty comments and his great sense of humor. Survivors include the fol-

lowing: his son, Bryan (Cindy Dorr) of Sartell; daughters, Lori Tchida (Rich Kitzmiller) of Sartell, Janet (Jeff) Skinner of Sartell and Kris (Burl) Ives of Grand Rapids; sister, Mary Ann (Kenny) Petron of Sartell; 12 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Vi on Oct. 14, 2020; brother Gene; sisters, Marcy Traut and Laverne Kruchten. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to CentraCare Hospice.

Principal  
from front page

Before coming to Sartell, she worked in the Rocori and St. Cloud school districts.

“We are looking forward to the experience Julia Bjerke will bring to this role,” Superintendent Jeff Riddlehoover said in a statement. “Julia served as the Early Childhood coordinator after the building was re-

configured. She knows the students, staff and families and we are grateful for her leadership.” Bjerke succeeds Oak Ridge Principal Jason Mielke, who will be the principal at Avon Elementary School beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. Oak Ridge serves about 433 prekindergarten and kindergarten students. Bjerke starts as principal on July 1.

Director

from front page

as the head baseball coach at Lackawanna College, Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he developed a marketing plan for the athletic department along with supervising and implementing a game day management system. He mentored coaches and helped oversee a \$1 million athletic budget. Thompson played baseball at SCSU, where he was an All-Conference infielder/outfielder and three-year starter. A graduate of SCSU, Thompson went on to earn his master’s degree from SCSU in college counseling and student development.

City of St. Stephen  
Stearns County  
State of Minnesota  
Resolution No. 05042022

**A RESOLUTION AMENDING APPENDIX A**

The City Council of the City of St. Stephen, Minnesota, does hereby resolve as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the City Code Section 14 provides “permit, application, connection, inspection and other types of fees or charges as may be assessed by the City with regard to licensing and services shall be accumulated and listed in Appendix A...subject to change and amendment by the City Council as provided by in the ordinance establishing the charge”; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council voted to adopt a Right of Way Ordinance that includes provisions relating to permit fees and potential delay penalties for applicants; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has determined that the permit fees and potential delay penalties for applicants as outlined below represent an amount sufficient to recover management costs, city engineering, and other expenses associated with the administration of the Right of Way Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council amends the Appendix A fee schedule, to include as follows:

Description	Fee
License and Permit Bond	10,000
Excavation Permit Fee	• Hole = \$140 • Trench/Bore/Plow = .40/lineal feet + hole fee
Obstruction Permit Fee	\$70
Curb Cut	\$50
Small Wireless Facility Fee	\$250
Rent to occupy space on City-owned wireless support structure	\$150/per small wireless facility per year
Maintenance associated with space occupied on a city-owned wireless support structure	\$25/per small wireless facility per year
Permit Extension Fee	\$60
Delay Penalty	Minor/local streets = \$20/day Collector Streets = \$100/day Arterial streets = \$500/day

This amendment is adopted the 4th day of May, 2022, and shall be effective upon publication.

CITY OF ST. STEPHEN

/s/ Lisa Marvin, mayor  
/s/ Julie Jacobs, city clerk

Publish: May 27, 2022

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ANNIVERSARY

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\*\*\* Friday \*\*\*

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A drunk driver ruined something precious. Amber Apodaca.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

Photos by Michael Mazzoni

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Reaching Everybody!

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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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People

**Brooke Swanson**, daughter of Carla and Sid Swanson of Sartell, recently graduated from St. Cloud Tech High School.



Swanson

**Seven Sartell students** recently graduated from Apollo High School. They are the following: **Nimo Abdi, Ahmed-shukri Ahmed, David Bilben, Ally Breidenbach, Kody Phommavongxay, Kiley Swenson** and **Asiona White**.

**Two St. Stephen students** recently graduated from Holdingford High School. They are **Nicole Paggen** and **Mariah Thom**.

**Samantha Herdina** of Sartell recently graduated from Holdingford High School.

**Four Sartell students** recently graduated from St. John's Preparatory School. They are the following: **Matthew Bolton, Billy Jiang, Kai Martinson** and **Aidan Math**.



Bolton

**Bolton**, son of Aaron Bolton and Nicole Mercer Bolton, will attend University of California - Los Angeles majoring in biochemistry and minoring in German.

**Seventeen Sartell students** recently graduated from Cathedral High School. They are the following: **Elijah Biniek, Abigail Brew, Meghan Corbett, Abigail Dingmann, Emily Dingmann, Cameron Ehlen, Kaliee Falconer, Carter Halstrom, Nicholas Hamak, Alexander Heen, Will Hoekstra, Irina Pecherskaia, Kevin Sanz, Jordan Schumann, Logan Theisen, Maxwell Tomczik** and **Evan Wahlin**.

**Logan Harran** of Sartell recently graduated from Albany High School.

**Hunter Boelz** of Sartell was recently named to the spring president's academic honors list at Dakota State University, Madison, South Dakota. Students must earn a minimum 3.5 grade-point average to qualify for this honor.

**Eleven Sartell students** recently graduated from Minnesota State University-Mankato. They and their fields are as follows: **Joshua Bechtold**, bachelor's degree in sport management; **Darah Coleman**, bachelor's degree in creative writing, magna cum laude; **Madeline Davis**, bachelor's degree in elementary education, summa cum

laude; **Madison Dobis**, bachelor's degree in communications, arts and literature education, magna cum laude; **Jenna Eibes**, bachelor's degree in communication disorders, cum laude; **Luke Green**, doctorate in educational leadership; **Kira Haglin**, master's degree in communication disorders, summa cum laude; **Galaxy Le**, bachelor's degree in mass media; **Nicole Lindmeier**,

Sartell resident graduates from Leadership Development Academy

Troy Cameron, a long-time resident of Sartell, recently graduated from the Minnesota Bankers Association Leadership Development Academy. This year long program, which graduated a total of 23 bankers in 2022, provides in-depth skill-building for bankers preparing for critical leadership roles in their banks.

"The MBA Leadership Development Academy requires a significant commitment to professional and personal growth" said Joe Witt, MBA President/CEO. "It is intensive and challenging.



Cameron

master's degree in communication disorders; **Colin Nord**, bachelor's degree in theater arts; and **Madalyn Schnettler**, bachelor's degree in marketing.

**Tanner Breidenbach** of Sartell and a former Apollo High School graduate, recently graduated from Concordia College-Moorhead with a major in business.

Graduates of this program should be very proud of this accomplishment and their determination to grow as individuals and bank leaders."

The MBA Leadership Development Academy was launched by the MBA to provide additional training for the next generation of Minnesota's bank leaders. "When we first learned about this program, we immediately saw the potential to help us strengthen our leadership capacity and grow our future leaders," said John Herges CEO of Falcon National Bank. "We couldn't be prouder of Troy for completing the program, and we look forward to the positive impact this experience will have on the future of our bank and the community we serve."

**Evan Gertken**, son of Naomi Schneider and a former Sartell High School graduate, recently

graduated from Concordia College-Moorhead with a major in business.

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## Father, son excel in Sartell Apple Duathlon

by Dennis Dalman  
news@thenewsleaders.com

A Sartell father and son excelled in the Sartell Apple Duathlon May 21 – with the father, Andrew Zabel, taking first place in the long-course male category and son Hudson taking third place in the male short course.

The winner of the long-course female category was Andrea Myers of Medicine Lake with a time of 1:50:52.

Zabel completed the grueling race with a winning time of 1:26:29. Son Hudson had a time of 57:30 in his race.

“It’s a wonderful feeling to win it after competing in it for so many years,” Andrew told the Sartell-St. Stephen Newsleader the day after his win. “This race is right in our backyard, and Sartell is awesome in supporting it.”

Last year, Zabel placed second in the “Apple.” He has been a competitor in that event every year since 2009 and has competed in about 100 other duathlons.

Zabel, 42, is a property man-

ager/realtor for Edina Realty. He and his wife, Kimberly, have five children. Son Hudson, who placed third in the Apple, is 16 and a student at Sauk Rapids High School. He works out in the gym five days a week and, said his father, he was “pumped” about doing so well in the Apple.

After winning the race last Saturday, Andrew didn’t pop open a bottle of champagne. Far from it. He went home and shoveled dirt for two hours.

“We’re building a patio on a house we bought last October,” he said. “We’ve been remodeling the whole house. It’s on 19th Avenue in Sartell.”

After shoveling dirt, Zabel did manage to meet with his

**Duathlon • page 8**

# LIBERTYVILLE

**JUNE 11****11 a.m. - 3 p.m.****CITY OF SARTELL  
CITY HALL  
PARKING LOT****Voigt Johnson Barbeque**  
• While supplies last**TONS OF FREE FUN!**  
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**PARADE**10 a.m. | ST. FRANCIS XAVIER TO  
RIVERVIEW INTERMEDIATE**LIBERTYVILLE**

11 a.m. | SARTELL CITY HALL

**VOIGTJOHNSON BARBEQUE**

11 a.m. | SARTELL CITY HALL

**GREAT RIVER BOWL & PARTNERS  
PUB STREET DANCE (ft. Radio Nation)**

6:30 p.m. | SARTELL CITY HALL

**FIREWORKS**

10:15 p.m. | PINEMEADOW SCHOOL



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# Big trucks roll into ORELC



photos by Carolyn Bertsch  
(Above) Sisters cool off May 12 with ice cream to match their dresses during Big Truck Night at Oak Ridge Early Learning Center. They are (left) Sianna, 8 and Ireland Spooner, 5, of Sartell. (At right) Rowan Robinson, 4, of Sartell, smiles from the drivers seat of a SWAT vehicle May 12 during Big Truck Night at Oak Ridge Early Learning Center.



Maison Ferreira, 6, of St. Joseph, watches from the drivers seat May 12 as Joe Lahr, owner of Joe's Excavating in Sartell, maneuvers the bucket of an excavating truck during Big Truck Night at Oak Ridge Early Learning Center.



## Marchers

from front page

by the “Student Advocates for Equity” club. Its goal is to show strong support for all students in schools, as well as for teachers and school-board members who have been sharply criticized by some parents in Sartell and elsewhere in the nation.

Along the march route on Pinecone Road, many motorists honked and gave gestures of approval to the marchers, but there were occasional incidents of negative comments and rude gestures.

“However, we stayed together as a group,” said participant Anthony Berndt. “We avoided engagement with ignorant or bigoted actions or comments.”

The placards carried by the marchers had slogans that included the following: Schools Are For All Students; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion; Protect Our Teachers; Our Education, Our Choice; Stop Anti-Asian Hatred; Enough is Enough.

The “solidarity” in March for Solidarity is defined as “unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest.”

According to the marchers and speakers, students who feel they’ve been marginalized and/or bullied include people of color, people of other religions or cultures, lower socio-economic groups and members who are or who are perceived as having GLTBQ sexual orientations.

“As many students made clear during their speeches at city hall, the hallways of Sartell High School are not friendly places for students who aren’t white, cisgender or straight,” said Jenna Dahlberg after the march. “Students get called slurs by their peers and are sometimes threatened with physical assault.”

When negative incidents are reported by the victims, Dahlberg added, they often receive more slurs or threats.

She is also critical of the school board caving into pressure and the threat of a lawsuit from a group of parents. Those parents felt that rainbow stickers and other posters put up in hallways were inappropriate and somehow harmed their own students. The rainbow stickers showed support for the LGBTQ community. The school removed the stickers and posters. Instead, the school authorized new posters to be put up that state “This is a welcoming space. In this school, bullying, discrimination and harassment are prohibited.”

“But that action (removing stickers, posters) did not stop the tension,” Dahlberg said.

One of the rally speakers was Emily Welte. She told the Newsleader the next day that she is not seen as “normal” at the high school because she is part of the LGBTQ community and a captain of Gay-Straight Alliance.

“I see a lot of hate-filled behavior toward those in the community and anyone else who is diverse or different,” she said. “The Solidarity March was necessary because

it meant that teachers, students and others aren’t alone in the fight for equity. That fight has just started, but there is a community ready to fight for it.”

Student Joshua Nguyen said the march was a morale booster.

“There’s always a lot of opposition and hatred that minority students face, so having the opportunity to show some loves means a great deal,” he said. “As a minority student myself, I appreciated there were so many people willing to get out and show support for myself and other students like me.”

Stephanie Bluhm, who along with two others, led a call-and-response chant at the rally, told the Newsleader, “Teaching and allowing students to stand up for what they believe is so important. I think adults who are never in our buildings need to stop deciding how they are run.”

Another placard slogan (Strive for Equity, not Excellence) was explained by Dahlberg.

“No child should be held to the expectation that they need to be ‘excellent’ all the time, or even at all,” she said. “People have different abilities and different definitions of ‘excellence,’ and to expect everyone to achieve the school district’s definition of excellence is absurd. We, as marchers, want our students to be given tools that not only identify the differences in abilities between students but also address these differences so everyone can succeed in their own way.”

Student Ellena Ashby said the March for Solidarity was a “physical representation of support for everyone in this community who feels unsupported or unwelcome.”

Like many march participants, Bennett Prose expressed optimism about the nurturing of respect and equity for all students and teachers.

“Personally,” said Prose, “this march gave me so much hope about our community. I truly believe there are so many folks who want to help our students and make our schools better places to be.”

Andi Koester, a student participant, commented on the speeches given at the rally.

“The speeches,” she said, “show the significance of being accepted and how even though many community members would like to ignore it, these are not isolated issues.”

Paisley Watson, also a student participant, said she worries every day about the tensions in the high school.

“Many days I wake up and one of the first things I think about is the lack of support at my school,” she told the Newsleader. “. . . I watch with every day that passes the increased amount of burn-out and dejection among my peers as we get battered with insult after insult, followed by very little support from the community and the school. Hence, the Solidarity March.”

Alissa Brickman also attended the march and spoke at the rally. She is a candidate for State Senate District 13 (which includes Sartell) in the upcoming November election.

She called the event “out-standing but sad,” – sad because “these children are more loving and accepting than the adults they have been up against this year.”

In her speech, Brickman told the marchers they will bring change.

“It is not fair that adults are actually bullying the school and these young adults. This is happening across Minnesota and across the nation. We have to stand up for what is right and follow the lead of these brilliant and brave students.”

Most if not all of the concerns of Solidarity March participants will be handled by new school action plans as detailed in a story written by Newsleader writer Mike Knaak (see Page 3). A 96-member Educational Equity and Student Experience Committee recently completed its long, intense brainstorming sessions and recommends the district take many actions on 10 topics.

The report was presented by Superintendent Jeff Ridlehoover at the May 11 school-board meeting. He said some of the actions are already in place, with more to be implemented soon. The action policies were designed for the following categories: Activities, Communications and School/Home Partnerships, Culture and Climate, Curriculum and Instruction, Harassment and Bullying, Social Media, Special Education, Student Support Services, Technology, and Transitions Between Buildings.

To read the entire report, visit the school district website at [www.isd748.org/Page/501](http://www.isd748.org/Page/501).



# Duathlon

from page 6

parents at Sartell’s Blue Line Bar and Grill for a relaxing lunch. They drove from Long Prairie for the event, the city where Zabel was born.

All told, four other Sartell residents placed among the top five competitors for males and females in both race categories. Nolan Snyder was the first to cross the short-course male category with a time of 54:25; Alison Manderscheid placed fourth in the female short course; and in the long-course female race Alyssa Knese placed second and Judy Januschka placed fifth.

On a chilly, windy morning almost 200 runners-cyclists participated in the Sartell Apple Duathlon during its 40th anniversary. The staging area for the race (start and finish), as it

has been for many years, were the grounds of Sartell Middle School, now known as Riverview Intermediate School.

The long course consisted of a 5k run and a 33k bike course followed by another 5k run to the finish line. The race goes through north Sartell all the way to St. Stephen and back to Sartell along the river road to the school.

The short-course race is a 5k run, a 15.5k bike route and then a fast sprint to the finish line.

There was also a Family Fun run-bike event held the night before the big race.

Other competitors placing in the top five of the long-course races were from Mayer, Rochester, Foley, Rice and out-of-staters from Boulder, Colo.; and Lincoln, Neb. Besides the Sartell duathletes among the top five in the two short-course categories were runners-bikers from Avon, Albany, Freeport,

St. Joseph, St. Cloud and Fargo, N.D.

Before the start of the May 18 Apple Duathlon, Sartell resident Daryl Stevens commented about the event’s 40-year history to participants and spectators. In 1983, Stevens and Rich Schwegel of St. Joseph founded the race under sponsorship of the St. Cloud Hospital to promote heart health. In the first years it was a running race only but later added biking to become a duathlon.

The race, promoting health, was dubbed the “Apple” as a nod to that old adage: “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.”

During its 40 years, the Apple came to be known far and wide, throughout the nation and the world, as one of the finest and best-organized duathlons anywhere.

Daryl Stevens and his wife, Pam, both avid runners/bikers, were the Apple race directors for many years besides competing in it year after year. This year, Pam joined the race; Daryl could not because of a recent surgical procedure.

Daryl had high praise for all of the volunteers who made the Apple such an annual success for four decades. He also praised the unwavering support from the city staff and the residents of Sartell. Another reason for its success, Stevens said, is race announcer Jerry MacNeil, who has handled the job masterfully for decades.

Rothford and Heather Corcoran are the current race directors.

In 2009 and 2013, the Apple was a World Triathlon duathlon qualifying event. It was also a USA Triathlon Regional qualifier in 2019 and 2020. Those events helped put the Sartell Apple Duathlon on the map as many of the world’s finest duathletes/ triathletes traveled to Sartell to participate in the “Apple.”



Andrew Zabel of Sartell crosses the finish line at the Sartell Apple Duathlon May 21. He has participated in every Apple race since 2009 and took second place in it last year.



After running a 5k race, Hudson Zabel of Sartell grabs his bike to set off on the 15.5k route during his participation in the male short-course race in the May 21 Sartell Apple Duathlon. He placed third in the race. His father, Andrew, won the male long-course race.

# Blotter

from page 3

warrant out of Benton County. Benton County confirmed they would like a hold placed. The man was taken into custody without incident. The officer transported the man to Sauk Rapids to meet a Benton County Deputy to transport the man the rest of the way to jail.

## May 14

8:09 p.m. Assist agency. CR 1. A Sartell officer assisted Stearns County with what sounded like a kayaker flipped in the river. The officer located one of the kayakers, who was standing alongside the river on CR 1. He informed the officer

that everyone was out and safe. The officer notified all responding agencies.

## May 15

6:56 p.m. Juvenile problem. 15th Street S. There was a report of juveniles breaking glass by garages. The officer located two juveniles and a woman breaking glass with a slingshot. They admitted to breaking the glass. The officer asked them to clean up the glass they had broken. The three went inside and came out with a broom and started cleaning up the broken glass.

## May 16

9:16 a.m. Community policing. Seventh Street N. A Sartell officer assisted with a parade from Pine Meadow Primary

School to Riverview Intermediate School for second graders.

## May 17

8:21 a.m. Hazard. Fifth Avenue N. A caller reported a power pole down. The officer located the pole and found it was snapped in half with the wires and pole partially in the road. It appeared the pole was struck by a vehicle, however no car parts or evidence were left behind. The officer remained until Xcel Energy arrived.

## May 18

12:44 a.m. Traffic stop. CR 1. An officer saw a vehicle erratically change lanes multiple times in a short distance. The officer checked the license plate and found the registered owner of the vehicle was sus-

pending. The officer stopped the vehicle. The driver told the officer he thought he was being followed and someone was flashing their lights at him. The officer informed the driver that his erratic driving drew attention to himself. The driver stated he was not aware of his suspended driving status. The driver was unable to provide proof of insurance. The driver was cited for driving after suspension and no insurance. The vehicle was towed.

## May 19

7:36 a.m. Theft. Sandstone Loop S. An officer was dispatched to a theft of a trailer on a job site. The officer spoke to the trailer’s owner who told the officer when he arrived he noticed the trailer missing,

the lock securing the hitch had been cut and left on the ground. The owner told the officer a few weeks ago he had called because someone broke into the trailer and stole his tools and that he had just replaced everything. The owner estimated that \$32,000 worth of tools had been stolen and the trailer was worth about \$6,000. The owner was able to supply the officer with a list of missing items. The officer saw on a neighbor’s security camera a truck pulling away with the trailer attached about 10:39 p.m. on May 18. The trailer was found in St Cloud. More security camera video was discovered from that location. This theft is under investigation.



PUBLIC NOTICE

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING • SARTELL-ST. STEPHEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 748  
April 18, 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 Meling and seconded by Snoberger to APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. All in favor. Motion carried.

During the public comment opportunity two members of the community addressed the School Board. Steve, resident, spoke on the topic of the EESE committee; Chris, community member, spoke on the topic of the equity committee selection process.

A motion was made by Snoberger 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 Mar. 21, 2022  
Minutes of the school board work session held on April 12, 2022

A.4.bChecks in the amount of \$616,329.31 as presented:

General Fund	425,558.97
Food Service Fund	92,679.69
Transportation Fund	40,986.93
Community Service Fund	2,815.34
Capital Expenditure Fund	47,730.28
Activity Accounts	765.00
Internal Service Fund	5,793.10
Check numbers 183404 – 183552	

ACHs in the amount of \$4,753.47 as presented:

General Fund	3,710.35
Community Service Fund	16.71
Activity Accounts	1,023.41
ACH numbers 212200168-212200182	

Receipts in the amount of \$5,268,285.26 as presented:

General Fund	4,856,658.71
Food Service Fund	338,557.35
Community Service Fund	37,957.99
Capital Expenditure Fund	14,234.55
Building Fund	228.26
Activity Accounts	7,967.32
Internal Service Fund	12,681.08
Receipts 50139 - 50299	

Wire transfers in the amount of \$1,633,925.36 as presented:

General Fund	1,102,264.79
Food Service Fund	37,527.28
Transportation Fund	18,183.77
Community Service Fund	28,363.60
Capital Expenditure Fund	12,355.66
Activity Accounts	676.47
Internal Service Fund	434,553.79
Wire transfers 202122652 – 202122719	

A.4.c Approve resolution accepting the following donations;  
Sartell Sabre Dance Team, Sartell High School Activities Office, \$760, donation for outside funded coach.

A.4.d Accept the resignation of Esraa Kadhem, RIS, cashier, 4/7/22; Abby Lyon, SMS, assistant principal, 6/30/22; Jason Mielke, OREL, principal, 6/30/22; Rebecca Post, RIS, cashier, 4/1/22; Paul Dvorak, OREL, part-time cleaner, 4/21/22. Accept the retirements of Deb Ploof, PMPS, administrative assistant, 9/30/22; Michelle Traut, OREL, para, 6/6/22.

**Student Representative Report:**

- Student Representative Kate Ellis reported Oak Ridge held its first Art in Our Schools event last Thursday and the next one will be held this coming Thursday. During today’s in-service teachers received training for PLTW. Pine Meadow teachers also received PLTW training along with the special education staff having building-to-building transition planning meetings. Riverview Intermediate students are beginning MCA testing and will continue for the next few weeks. There will be a book fair on May 16 and fifth-grade students will have the opportunity to visit the Middle School next month before leaving Riverview Intermediate. Sartell Middle School students have started the spring sports season and music concerts for all grades will start soon. The annual kickball tournament will be back this year for students to compete. Sartell High School just finished hosting the Central Lakes Conference Music Festival this past week. The Jazz Extravaganza and spring orchestra concerts will be performed in May. Prom planning is ongoing, with prom scheduled for May 21. Students are currently testing for AP courses and MCAs. The Graduation Committee has finalized plans for graduation. The spring musical “Tuck Everlasting” will be performed at 7 p.m. April 28, 29 and 30 and a matinee on April 30.

**Superintendent Report:**

- Superintendent Ridlehoover reported on happenings around the dis-

trict. Students across the District are having fun and learning. The Sabre Speech team competed at the state competition along with the Visual Arts Festival. The District hosted the CLC Music Festival on April 8; Districts host the event every eight years. The Sartell-St. Stephen Education Foundation provided treats for a staff appreciation event.

The National Honor Society held its Inductions Banquet last week for new members. Staff had a professional development in-service today, some highlights of the day included the following: new PLTW curriculum from grades kindergarten to fifth grade and special education transition planning. The Coordinating Council held its first meeting in February and will meet again in May. All positions for the newly formed BILT and BOLT teams have been filled. This Wednesday, the Habitat for Humanity house will have a dedication ceremony at 3:15 p.m. at the site’s location.

The Department of Education recently released the statewide average for graduation, showing the state average slightly above 80 percent. Sartell High School’s graduation shows an average of 97.5 percent, which is almost as close as you can get to 100 percent. Congratulations was given to Student Council for being recognized as a National Gold Council of Excellence by the National Student Council and Karrie Fredrickson for being named Advisor of the Year from the Central Division. Ridlehoover asked Mrs. Fredrickson and five student council representatives to say a few words about the team’s work and the program. Lastly, the current student enrollment count is 4,090 students.

**Educational Equity and Student Experience Committee Report:**

- Superintendent Ridlehoover provided an update on the committee’s progress and process the committee is going through.

**District Finance Report:**

- Director of Business Services Joe Prom provided an update on district finances.

**School Board Committee Report:**

- Director Byrd reported on the recent Policy Committee meeting. Policies reviewed are on tonight’s agenda and include small edits along with MSBA legal updates.
- Vice Chair Moehrle reported he will attend the SEE general meeting and have more to report as the legislative session finishes..
- Treasurer Meling shared the message of thanks from the Sartell Senior Connection for being able to present at last month’s meeting.

A motion was made by Moehrle and seconded by Nies to APPROVE #1-51:

**New Employees/Changes:**

Riley Ahrndt, SHS, assistant boys baseball, \$4,110 (9.5 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), Nick Koubsky, 3/14/2022; Vanessa Brenny, SHS, assistant track, \$4,210 (9.5 percent), BA, B (\$44,315), Angela McSorley, 3/14/2022; Michael Carlson, SHS, head girls track, \$6,327 (12.5 per-

cent), BA, H (\$50,618), new position, 3/14/2022; Kirby Daubanton, SMS, seventh-grade baseball, \$1,947 (4.5 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), replacing Chris Schumer, 4/4/2022;

David Deminsky, RIS, phy ed, \$50,216, BA, Step F, replacing Mitchell Keeler, 22-23 SY; Lori Dornburg, SMS, yearbook, \$1,092 (2.25 percent), BA, F (\$48,518), replacing Brittney Witt, 3/1/2022; Mikayla Emslander, RIS, cashier, \$17.22/hour, RI, S2, 3 hours/day, replacing Esraa Kadhem, 4/19/2022; Triscia Evenson, SMS, cashier, \$17.22 (RI, S2), 3 hours/day, replacing Michelle Sand, 3/25/2022; Jacob Ferguson, S M S , junior high boys golf, \$1,947 (4.5 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), replacing Chelsey Reimer, 4/4/2022;

Jacob Ferguson, SMS, PLTW, \$59,384, MA, Step D, replacing Luke Miller, 22-23 SY; Jami Fremstad, RIS, SPED, \$70,077, MA30, Step F, replacing Kelly Haws, 22-23 SY; Sadie Hanson, RIS, SPED, \$61,562, MA, Step F, new position, 22-23 SY; Jacob Helmin, SMS, eighth-grade baseball, \$1,994, BA, B (\$44,315), replacing Chad Krauel, 4/4/2022; Greg Henning, SHS, assistant track – outside funded, \$2,355 (9.5 percent), BA, G (\$49,569), 50-percent contract, replacing Vanessa Brenny, 3/14/2022; Brenda Holter, SMS, social studies – sixth-grade, \$75,507, MA30, Step K, replacing Mike Maurer, 22-23 SY; Lori Holthaus, OREL, SPED, \$69,060, BA30, Step O, replacing Melinda Listerud, 22-23 SY;

Angela LeMieur, SHS, cook’s helper, \$21.01/hour, RII, S5, 5 hours/day, new position, 22-23 SY; Riley Marod, SHS, head volleyball, \$5,963 (13 percent), BA, B (\$45,866), replacing Andrew Ditlevson, 8/15/2022; Jason Menth, SMS, assistant principal, \$105,500, replacing Abby Lyon, 22-23 SY; Luke Miller, SHS, technology education, \$83,680, MA30, Step P, replacing Courtney Murray, 22-23 SY; Melissa Misterman, SHS, SPED, \$66,145, MA20, Step E, new position, 22-23 SY;

Lara Moline, SHS, summer marching band assistant director, \$4,110 (9.5 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), replacing Rachel Miller, 4/1/2022; Darin Morrison, SHS, assistant track – outside funded, \$2,055 (9.5 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), 50-percent contract, new position, 3/14/2022; Hollie Neitzke, SHS, head cook II, \$24.31/hour, RVIII, S3, 8 hours/day, replacing Laura Solt, 22-23 SY; Jake Nelson, SHS, assistant lacrosse, \$3,612 (8.35 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), new position, 4/4/2022; Jennifer Nelson, PMPS, para, \$22.31, RIV, S6, 3.25 hours/day, replacing Abby Baker, 4/11/2022;

Angela Paulson, PMPS/ OREL, information technology, \$86,920, MA30, Step R, new position, 22-23 SY; Nichole Perius, RIS, fifth-grade, \$82,379, MA30, Step O, replacing Alicia Fosso, 22-23 SY; Becky Post, Bus Garage, bus driver, \$25.55/hour, 8 hours/day, replacing Marilyn Kaiser, 4/4/2022; Andrea Potter, SHS, science, \$54,566, BA, Step J, replacing Ben Hoffman, 22-23 SY;

Sandra Rosenberger, RIS, cook’s helper, \$21.01/hour, RII, S5, 5 hours/day, new position, 22-23 SY; Abbey Rue, SMS, SMS spring musical publicity, \$973 (2.25 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), replacing Sarah Theisen,

3/1/2022; Abbey Rue, SMS, seventh/eighth-grade softball, \$1,947 (4.5 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), replacing Matt Darling, 4/4/2022; Brad Scherer, SHS, head girls golf, \$4,110 (9.5 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), replacing Brock Swanson, 3/21/2022;

Corey Schueller, SMS, junior high boys golf, \$1,947 (4.5 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), new position, 4/4/2022; McKenzie Schurhamer, SHS, assistant boys tennis, \$3,180 (7.35 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), replacing Jared Saue, 3/28/2022; Alison Seng, RIS, speech, \$57,210, MA, Step B, replacing Marcia Gaetz, 22-23 SY; Michelle Shouse, SMS, cook’s helper, \$21.01/hour, RII, S5, 5 hours/day, replacing Hollie Neitzke, 22-23 SY; Joe Sicora, SHS, summer drumline, \$4,110 (9.5 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), replacing Sylvia Kaare, 4/11/2022;

Kira Smith-Ahles, RIS, cashier, \$16.20/hour, RI, S1, 3 hours/day, replacing Becky Post, 4/6/2022; Jake Sweeter, SHS, assistant baseball – outside funded, \$2,055 (9.5 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), (50-percent contract), replacing David Deminsky, 3/14/2022; Julie Thom, OREL, early childhood coordinator/ECFE, \$70,631, MA, Step N, new position, 22-23 SY; Michael Webster, SHS, assistant boys golf, \$3,180 (7.35 percent), BA, A (\$43,262), replacing Michael Knight, 3/21/2022; Krista Ziemer, RIS, SPED, \$86,920, MA30, Step R, replacing Riane Beebe, 22-23 SY.

**New Employees:**

Zoe Dascalos, SHS, FCS, \$44,766, BA, Step A, replacing Joey Vanek, 22-23 SY.

**Leaves of Absence:**

Michael Knight, SMS, social studies, LOA, 4/4/22- 4/29/22; Chris Adelman, RIS, fourth-grade, LOA, 22-23 & 23-24 SY; Shaina Ganz, PMPS, para, LOA, 4/4/22-6/3/22;Rob Graham, SHS, part-time cleaner, LOA, 3/28/22-6/3/22; Terri Johnson, OREL, para, LOA, 4/7/22-6/3/22; Lori Tchida, Bus Garage/SHS, bus driver/ custodian, LOA, 3/24/22-6/30/22, intermittent.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Schedule Work Session and Committee Meetings:

Future Regular Board Meeting – Monday, May 16 @ Sartell High School - 6:30 p.m.

**Official Review of Policies:**

The Board had the official review of policy: 423.

The Board had the first reading of revisions of policies: 211, 414, 503, 507, 510, 513 and 515.

Committee Assignments were reviewed.

A motion to ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:03 p.m. was made by Meling and seconded by Snoberger. All in favor. Motion carried.

/s/ Jeremy Snoberger, clerk  
Publish: May 27, 2022



# Opinion

## Our View

### Choosing a path may seem daunting

Upon graduating high school, teenagers are presented with so many options of what direction to take their lives in that it can be mind boggling. These next few steps can seem crucial to create a fruitful career. Many of these career choices include enrolling themselves in two or four more years of school which can seem like a big commitment of time and money.

Keep in mind everyone has different interests and should follow the path best suited for them. So, where one student wants to avidly pursue a degree, another may not be very well apt in a classroom setting and would be more successful choosing a different route.

If four more years of school sounds like too much, an associate's degree or trades school may be the best option since it's only half as long a time commitment. Topics can range from carpentry, cosmetology, nursing or even just getting general classes out of the way.

Something that may be even more worth time and money would simply be starting an apprenticeship in one of the trade industries. Throughout the years, it seems attending college is assumed to yield more success than the trades. However, that isn't necessarily true. In some cases there can be more competition to get hired as a doctor than as a plumber.

In addition, while in an apprenticeship the student gets paid like any other job and as time goes on could also earn raises up until they obtain certifications. As far as job security goes, the world can never have too many people to build or fabricate new houses, buildings and roads and on top of that people to install plumbing and electric, and also to repair things if there are issues in the future.

Of course these types of jobs are considered to be more hands-on work, rather than just sitting in an office all day long. Some people may consider that kind of work to be more self fulfilling since one can physically see the work that has been done. Plus, it takes a certain type of work ethic to achieve these types of skills and endurance that it takes to get the job done.

So when considering your future, it's important to choose what is best for you and not listen to societal pressures to go to college just because it's the most traveled path. It's more important to do something you enjoy rather than something that just brings in money. As the saying goes, if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life.

#### 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.

## Golfing has lessons, memories

A few weeks ago, I was able to get out and do something I had not done for quite a while, play a round of golf. It seems like every year with college, I end up falling off the game due to the weather and schoolwork. In the summer after though, I always make an effort to recommit. This has been because of family and friends who are fellow players who encourage me, and also because there's something about golf that makes it such a rewarding experience. While golf does have a learning curve and some investment to get into, there are some lessons and memories I have from golfing that have made a lasting impact, and make it something I recommend for anyone who's interested in starting out with it.

I remember when I first started out at golf, I was not very good at it and didn't know much about it. I had signed up in middle school with a couple of friends, as we thought it would be a good spring sport to be part of together. I knew my grandpa played regularly but it was not something I'd been involved in as much before. Through our coaches, my friends and I learned the ins and outs of the game, and tried as best we could to implement them in our play. Continuing to be on the school team into high school, I can safely say I was never a regular varsity player. Looking back, I'm OK with that because the lessons I have taken from golf have been much more beneficial than the feeling of play-

### Connor Kockler

Guest writer



ing really well would have been.

One part of golf that has been rewarding for me since the beginning is the different approaches you need to take for various shots, even on the same hole during a round. Each shot is different, and requires consideration and careful thinking. On your tee shot, it makes sense to use your driver and try to hit the ball as far as possible. But on every other shot, you often need to think about getting the hit just right. Not hitting the ball far enough is a problem of course, but if you hit it too far you might go over the hole, or put yourself in a bad position for the next shot. This is a great life lesson because this discerning type of thinking works wonders in any situation in life. Sometimes you are in a situation where full effort is appropriate, like driving, but sometimes you need the mindset of making a precise chip shot or putt to handle a delicate situation.

Another aspect of golf I enjoy is the people and the social aspect. Most sports you are running around or waiting in constant anticipation for the next big action to happen. However, golf is a sport you can run at your own pace,

and adapt to the style of whoever you are playing with. You can play really casual and catch up with someone while the golf shots fade into the background somewhat, or you can have a really intense competition of who is making the best shots and playing well overall. Usually the games I play fall somewhere in the middle. But golf has this great flexibility to it that you can make it whatever you want, and each game is different depending on who you're playing with and what is on everyone's minds that day.

Overall, golf is so special to me because it is more than just a sport. It's full of life lessons and connections to people I've been close with my whole life. When I went golfing most recently, I went with my grandpa, and our golf games throughout the years have become more and more fulfilling as we continue our tradition of playing together. I hopefully have made things more interesting throughout the years by improving my scores as well. There is that special feeling playing golf that it's more than a game, out on the course with my grandpa, my friends or colleagues from work. That's why I will continue to enjoy golf, and I hope to share that enjoyment with people I know moving forward.

*Connor Kockler is a 2022 graduate of St. John's University. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.*

## Lucy is back home, happier than ever

Be oh-so careful if you decide to bring a pet to a storm shelter.

I made a rash decision on the night of May 12. Storm sirens began to wail as vicious winds howled louder. I grabbed my calico cat, Lucy, and brought her to the car so I could drive to the storm shelter in this mobile-home park. I planned to go back to the house and grab Tiny, the other cat.

I opened the car door. Lucy thrashed about, gashed my left forefinger, jumped down and ran into the night. Tiny would have to stay home. Off to the shelter I went, quite certain when I got back Lucy would be on the deck.

Nope. Nowhere to be seen. A sinking, desolate feeling overcame me, made worse by crashing waves of guilt. All my fault! I should have at least rushed to the shed to get a cat carrier, then put her in the carrier in the house before going to the car.

Next-door neighbors Richard and Martha Dubbin were devastated. Their cat, Sugar, is Lucy's "sister." Ten years ago, both were stray kittens walking like lost little lions through our yards when we decided to keep them.

Neighbors used flashlights, wandering through wet grass, hoping to spot Lucy. Nothing. Next morning, the search began again. No luck.

On the morning of the third day, I walked into the kitchen and saw Tiny

### Dennis Dalman

Reporter



with her paws on a windowsill, her ears straight up, her face peering intensely out the window.

She must see Lucy outside, I thought with a sudden rhapsody of hope. I looked out the window and saw – a pig! A very BIG pig.

My jaw dropped. "No, Tiny," I said. "That ain't Lucy."

The critter resembled a giant boar. It was chewing on ferns at the edge of my fountain garden.

Was this some kind of morning hallucination?! This is a neighborhood, not a farmyard. Looking out the west windows, I spied three smallish dogs romping, running in circles. I was hoping a cat, one named Lucy, would join the fun.

Just then I saw the frolicking dogs act startled. They started running fast across the vacant lot to the north, followed by the pig in hot pursuit. And let me tell you, that porker could run!

The next two days were unbearable. I did constant chores in an effort to take my tormented mind off of what terrible fate might have befallen Lucy.

Next day, a neighbor woman

across the way at least solved the pig mystery. She knows a man who owns a pig, and he sometimes lets a family in this park "piggy-sit" it when the man takes a vacation.

Relatives posted Lucy's photo on Facebook with contact information. I taped her photo up in the park. No calls. Hopes dwindled.

Martha insisted that cat will come home when I least expect it. She prayed every night to her late mother Joretta (who cherished animals), to God and to St. Joseph, asking for Lucy's return.

On the fourth afternoon, I was painting my deck when something moved under the deck beyond the lattice. I squinted, peering closer as my heart nearly stopped.

"Lucy's back!" I shouted to Martha in her yard; she let out a whoop of joy, then hurried over with a can of tuna. In the house I put on a pair of oven mitts as Martha lured Lucy from under the deck. Then I pounced, grabbed her and hustled her into the house. Home Sweet Home.

Please, dear readers: Always move cats inside a cat carrier during a storm or they'll freak out and run off. I learned that lesson the hard way.

Lucy was a gentle, sweet, happy cat, though leery of strangers, just like "sister" Sugar. I'm happy to report that Lucy, now back home, is still a gentle, sweet, happy cat – more than ever.

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



# Dog Park Etiquette

A trip to the dog park is a great way for your pup to get some exercise and have some fun with new puppy friends.

Benefits to dog parks include unleashed play and socialization. The Trust for Public Land reports dog parks are one of the fastest growing park amenities in the United States. Here's how to get your pup ready for a dog park playdate.

**WHEN YOU CAN VISIT**

The American Kennel Club says puppies younger than 4 months old or who have not had all of their vaccinations shouldn't visit dog parks or be around dogs you don't know. Dogs who spend time in dog parks should be vaccinated for Bordetella, leptospirosis and canine influenza, the AKC says, and female dogs that are in season should also stay at home.

Dogs who visit parks should also learn basic obedience commands, such as come, down and stay, and be socialized to other dogs before you go. If your pup is reactive or dog-aggressive, it's best he stay home, as should dogs that guard their owners, water, food or toys.

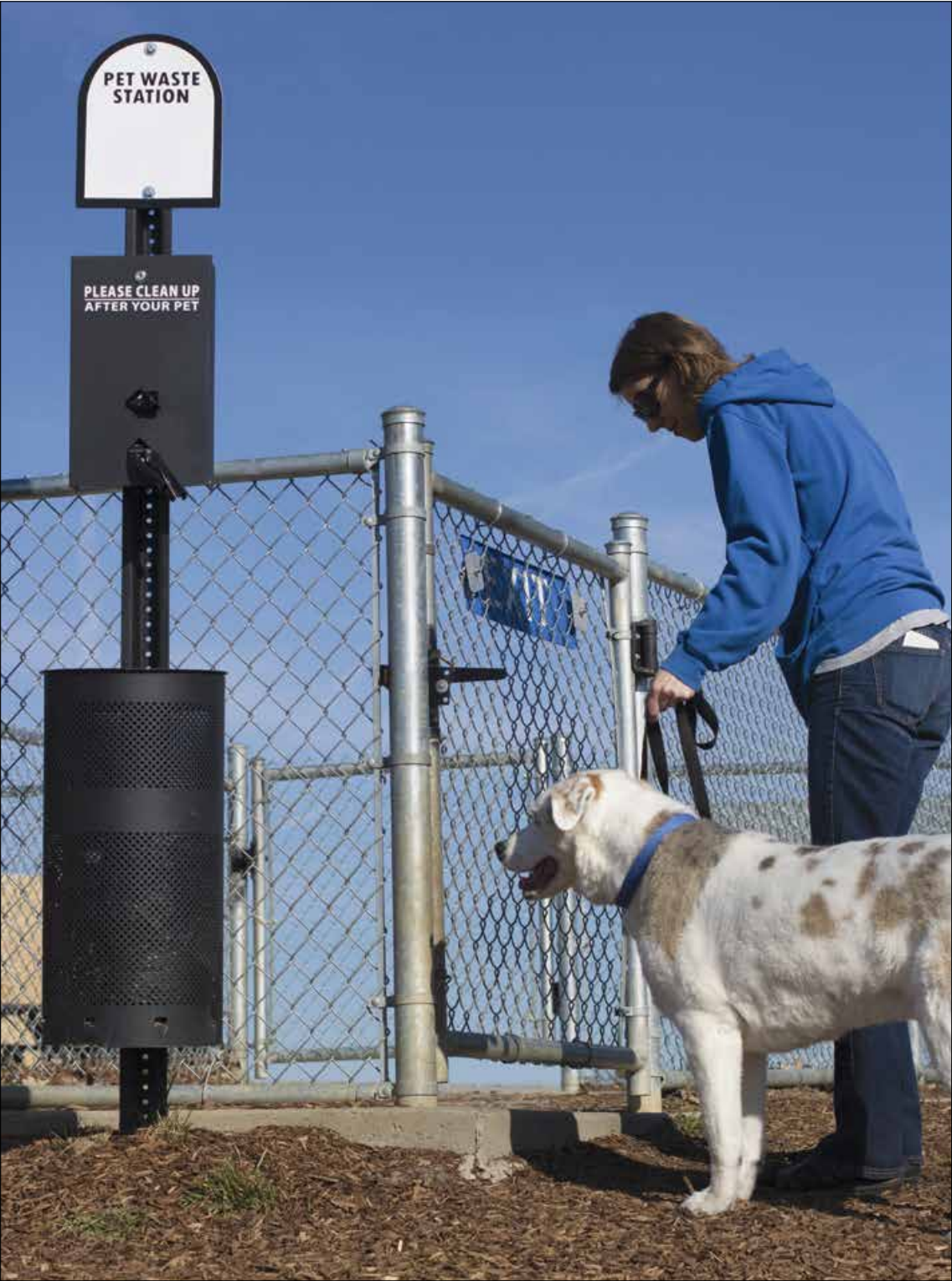
**EVALUATING A DOG PARK**

Visit the dog park alone at first, so you can make sure it's safe and will be a fun experience for your pet. The AKC says to inspect the fencing, making sure it's

secure and keeps dogs from crawling either under or over, with no holes or rough edges. It should also have secure gates, with double gates being the safest. This forces owners and pups to go through one gate, close it, then open another before entering or leaving, keeping dogs from escaping. Parks should also be clean, free of trash, broken equipment and dog poop. Remember to clean up after your dog while he's in the park. Leave personal dog toys, balls, food or treats at home; these can cause doggy disagreements that can quickly get out of hand.

**WHEN YOU GO**

Listen to your dog, the AKC says. If you get there and a gang of pups rushes the entrance, wait for the pack to disperse before entering. Take off your dog's leash as soon as you get into the fence so he won't feel trapped. If other dogs repeatedly roll your dog to the ground or chase your pup, intervene so he feels safe. And don't stay too long. Thirty minutes to an hour should be plenty of play time. If a dog wants to just hang out with you or stands by the gate, listen to him and take him back home.



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## Pine Cone Pet Hospital

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





# Financial Advice for Grads

Unfortunately, most graduates aren't adequately prepared to steer their own financial futures.

One study found the average U.S. college student could only answer about a third of the survey's basic financial questions. More than 75 percent in another report said they wish they'd had more help in getting ready to take on their own money management.

But college is actually the best time to get a firmer grasp on your finances, because you're still living part-time under the umbrella of a parent or guardian's protection. You can slowly assume more and more responsibilities, while taking advantage of their years of experience in balancing expenses with income. Emerging from school with a solid credit history and manageable debt is all the more important considering the low pay associated with most entry-level jobs, even for degreed candidates. Here's how to get started.

## TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

The average senior graduates with thousands of dollars in credit-card debt, putting themselves in an early financial hole. Try to keep from needlessly running up these bills, but if you do, focus on paying them down as quickly as possible. Interest typically adds up very quickly. Once you're able, con-

sider automating your savings: Whether through a regular draft to your savings account or a 401K deduction, putting money away as you're paid makes it more likely to stay saved instead of being spent on easily forgotten daily things.

## TRACK EXPENSES

Create a budget so you know exactly what's coming in,

and what's supposed to be going out — and to where. For many, a student loan is often the most immediate expense upon graduation. Try to begin payments before the usual grace period ends, and keep up with this bill. If you go into default, the loan's entire unpaid balance and any owed interest can become due immediately. Start with this important bill,

and continue detailing every outgoing expense. Whatever's left is the cash you'll have for incidentals.

## DON'T CUT TOO DEEPLY

Your post-graduation cost-cutting zeal must be balanced by real-world considerations. If you're no longer on your parents' health insurance, for instance, the risk of finan-

cial ruin skyrockets should the unthinkable happen.

While it's true that most young adults "never get sick," unplanned mishaps like car accidents and sudden illness are a part of everyday life. Paying a small monthly premi-um ensures you don't add insult to injury by going bankrupt after walking out of an emergency room.

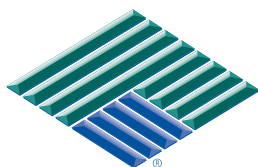


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