

After months at sea, Svendsen is glad to be home for Christmas

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

After spending the holiday season in the middle of the Pacific Ocean last year, far from family and friends, Samantha Svendsen of Staples said she's looking forward to a white Christmas at home.

"I was so happy when it snowed here a few weeks ago," Samantha said recently, adding that it had been two years since she had seen snow. "It really doesn't feel like the holidays without snow," she said.

However, as much as she might have missed Minnesota in winter, Samantha is extremely grateful for the opportunity she had to "see the world."

From August of 2015 - June of 2016, Samantha was one of 14 students selected to study onboard the Nordic ship the Sørlandet, home of the international high school, A+World Academy. "I was offered a full-ride scholarship," Samantha said.

Now a senior at Staples-Motley High School, Samantha was 16 years old when she left familiar territory, carrying a blank journal she would fill with numerous stories and observations along the way.

"We sailed from Norway to Hong Kong in 10-and-a-half months," Samantha shared, adding that their journey took them through parts of Europe, Central and South America, the Panama Canal, Fiji Island,



The Sørlandet

Seventeen-year-old Samantha Svendsen of Staples captured this photo of the Sørlandet, while floating in a dingy out on the Pacific Ocean last year. The Sørlandet (Norwegian for 'Southern Land') was Svendsen's home for over 10 months, having received a full-ride scholarship to study onboard through A+World Academy. (Submitted photos)

Sailor girl

At right, Svendsen is pictured at the high point of the Sørlandet, the ship she sailed from Norway to Hong Kong. This photo was taken somewhere in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Svendsen was 16 years old at the start of the trip and turned 17 while in Australia.



Australia and up into Asia. "I spent about four months in the Atlantic Ocean and about seven months in the Pacific Ocean," she said.

"It was really cool; but it was also the hardest experience I've ever had," Samantha shared of her months spent at sea.

"We had eight hours of school a day and then we also had to work eight hours a day," Samantha shared.

"Last year I went to a Canadian school," she said, adding that all of her instructors were from Canada. Although she had the usual roster of classes, such as math, English, biology, chemistry and media arts, Samantha said that subjects came to life out at sea. She recalled the day in chemistry class when they spent time looking out of the portholes to watch dolphins. "That was really cool," she said.

In addition to the 14 students, there were six teachers and 14 professional crew onboard the ship. "There were six countries represented by the students," Samantha said, mentioning Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Sri Lanka and the United States. "Only three of the students were from the United States," she added. Crew members hailed from the United States, Norway, Denmark, Scotland, Wales, Australia and Poland.

When she signed on to be a part of A+World

See **SVENDSEN** on page 8a

Staples-Motley School District levy up 5.8 percent

By Brenda Halvorson
General Manager

On a split vote the Staples-Motley School Board approved a 5.8 percent increase in the 2016 tax levy, payable in 2017, at their meeting Dec. 19.

Roy DiGiovanni and Dave Hoemberg were opposed to the motion. Bruce Lund, Mary Free-

man, Chad Longbella and Bryan Winkels voted in favor of that option.

Four levy options had been reviewed and discussed at the Dec. 5 work session. The news story of that meeting was published in the Dec. 8 Staples World. Two options were for higher levy increases. The fourth was for less.

All options considered included underlevying, that is,

reducing the levy in some areas to an amount less than the maximum. If those levy areas go over the levied amount, the difference must come from the general fund.

Questions at that time included funding for Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB); QComp, which sets aside funds for staff development, teacher mentors and professional learning groups; and how taxes in the

Staples-Motley district compare with other districts in the area.

As part of the Truth in Tlxation levy and budget public discussion, Patty Vacek, district business manager, presented information provided by the Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) explaining factors that affect property taxes and how changes in state law affected the basic education formula and

equalization.

Vacek included the charts comparing the Staples-Motley School District's portion of property taxes compare to other districts and with the state average.

Estimates for a \$100,000 home- stead residential property show that, out of nine area districts, only the Pine River Backus

See **SCHOOL** on page 3a

Hello, Readers,

It's become a tradition here at the Staples World . . . our annual Christmas Greeting edition which wrapped this issue of the newspaper. Local businesses support it by sending their holiday greetings and their thanks for the past year's patronage. We are very thankful for their support and urge your continued patronage of them. Third grade students from area schools answer questions we've asked. We truly appreciate the time and effort of the teachers and school staff to get the photos and responses to us. And, oh, my, what responses! Children that age have a sense of wonder, no limits to the possibilities or their creative imaginations. We so enjoy reading them. We hope you do, too. Letters to Santa are often a part of this issue and you will find them on page 7a. Thank you for reading! Have a safe and Merry Christmas!

Where in the World?

Filing Notices: **4B**

Obituaries

William Barg
Fern Branchaud
Robert Ferris
Ida Frodahl

Area church services for Christmas listed

Area churches will be holding special services for Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24, and Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25.

Motley
Motley Free Methodist Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight 4:30 p.m.
Christmas Day 10:30 a.m.
Motley United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve 6 p.m.
Lessons, Carols, Communion, Candlelight; special music, message "What on Earth Has Happened?"
The Shepherds' Journey from Oblivion to Faith
Christmas Day 9 a.m.
Carols, special music, message; "How Can the Creator Become a Creature?"

John's Journey; Belief to Bold Proclamation
St. John's Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5 p.m.
Christmas Day Service, 9:30 a.m.

St. Michael Catholic Church
Christmas Eve Mass 8 p.m.
Christmas Day Mass 10:30 a.m.
Lincoln Evangelical Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight 4 p.m.
"It Started with a Manger"

Christmas Day 10 a.m.
Staples
Staples Alliance Church
Christmas Eve, 4:30 p.m.
Christmas Day, 9:30 a.m.

Assembly of God Church
Christmas Eve, 5 p.m.
Christmas Day, 10 a.m.
Church of Christ
Christmas Eve, 4 p.m.
Christmas Day 10:30 a.m.
Faith Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Family Communion Worship 4 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight 5:30 and 10 p.m.
blessing of families and communion
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 10 p.m.

Christmas Day, 10 a.m.
First Congregational Church
Christmas Eve 4 p.m., light refreshments follow
Christmas Day 9:30 a.m., light refreshments follow
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Christmas Eve Mass 5 p.m.
Christmas Day Mass 8:30 a.m.
Staples United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve 4 p.m.
Lessons, Carols, Com-

munion, Candlelight; special music, message "What on Earth Has Happened?"
The Shepherds' Journey from Oblivion to Faith
Christmas Day 10:30 a.m.
Carols, special music, message: "How Can the Creator Become a Creature?"
John's Journey; Belief to Bold Proclamation
Thomastown Covenantant Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight 4:30 p.m.
Christmas Day, 10 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church
Christmas Eve Divine Service; Lessons, Carols, Candlelight, Communion 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Day Divine Service; Holy Communion 9 a.m.
Staples Adventist Church
Christmas Eve Program 10 a.m.
Songs, stories, cider and cookies



Reminders of the first Christmas

A nativity scene sits outside of Sacred Heart Church in Staples, a reminder of the first Christmas celebration in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Educators explore workforce options



Centers of Excellence comes to Staples

College educators representing the eight Centers of Excellence in the Minnesota State Colleges system spoke at the workforce conference about programs available to students both in high school and as college courses. Above right is Keith Olander, of the Agriculture Center of Excellence, at Central Lakes College in Staples.



CEO presentation

Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO) students from Staples-Motley and Wadena-Deer Creek explained their program to regional educators at the "Building the 21st Century Workforce Conference" held at NJPA on Dec. 16. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

Automation may be a trend for the future of industry, but right now there are many jobs available that are going unfilled because there are not enough trained applicants.

Those were two of the topics at a conference at

National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) in Staples on Dec. 16, called Building the 21st Century Workforce.

Event organizer Bart Graves, NJPA's College and Career Readiness Consultant, said industries need workers and they aren't getting a flow into the trained workforce.

"We need to find out what

works, using data driven solutions, both for students and for businesses," said Graves.

Graves said one of the goals is to provide students and displaced workers with more awareness of the jobs that are available in a two year training program or less. "There are great opportunities out

there, we want to see what we can do about that," he said.



New techniques on student discovery

At the manufacturing cluster meeting, Pillager High School teachers Jordan Herman (left) and Kevin Votaw explain their Metier Program that helps students discover how and when they do their best work.

State Colleges Centers of Excellence, Bridges Academies and Tech Mobile.

Getting kids into the flow

One of the conference attendees was Staples-Motley teacher Tab Erickson, who teaches careers classes for eighth graders and juniors. "Devising a plan makes such a difference," Erickson said. "We show the kids lists of occupations that they've never heard of, they need to choose which ones to follow."

The conference's keynote speaker was Kristi Westbrook of Consolidated Telecommunications in Brainerd, who spoke about automation in the workforce. For many of those attending, a striking take away was an estimate that in seven years, John Deere will have fully automated equipment that can plant a field, spray, fertilize and harvest without any one riding the tractors.

Other presenters included the Staples-Motley and Wadena-Deer Creek CEO Program, Minnesota

to teach, the tough part is teaching the "soft skills" such as emotional intelligence and simply showing up on time every day.

One suggestion was to help students learn about their personal skill sets and about their weaknesses. To help in that line of thinking, Pillager High School teachers Jordan Herman and Kevin Votaw explained the program they're developing, called Metier, to help students find how they do their best work.

The question they ask students is "How do you get into the flow?" The students look at what they're doing when they feel the best and are performing their best. "It gives students an opportunity to study themselves," said Herman.

They've also outlined the conditions that need to be met in order for the students to get into that "flow" of high performance.

Each group came up with suggestions for action items. Graves said NJPA will follow up with some of those ideas and explore them more at future career readiness meetings to follow up the ideas generated at the conference.

At the manufacturing cluster meeting, there's a consensus that there are enough programs available to supply the workforce, the limiting factor is getting students interested in the various programs. The educators said that technical skills are easy



Food shelf donation at Christmas

Staples-Motley Elementary School third graders donated over 160 pounds of food to the local food shelf. In lieu of a gift exchange, the students were invited to donate non-perishable food items. "We are so proud of our third graders supporting the needs of our community," said the third grade teachers, Donalee Butler, Jody Johnson, Pete Kautto and Sarah Larson. From left back to right are Jorja Kobliska, Gabe Decker, Eli Dumpprope, Britta Sweeney, Kat Beach, Lily Cline and Wyatt Lahr. (Submitted photo)

Wadena County sets levy increase at 4.86 percent

By Rin Porter, Wadena County reporter

At their Dec. 13 board meeting, Wadena County Commissioners spent a good deal of time discussing the final property tax levy amount and eventually approved the 2016 payable 2017 property tax levy amount for the county at \$8,599,165. This amount represents a 4.86 percent increase over 2015 payable 2016.

The levy amount was reduced from the September preliminary levy amount by about \$200,000.

The board decided it was necessary to increase the levy in order to have the funds to pay for higher costs in many areas including employee wages, employee benefits (especially health insurance), building construction and corrections.

Three Minnesota legislators and legislators-elect were also in attendance to listen to the concerns of the board and other elected and appointed county officials.

State Senator-elect Paul Utke, State Representative Steve Green and State Representative-elect John Poston heard funding needs explained by Community Corrections Director Kathy Langer, County Attorney Kyra Ladd, Seventh Judicial District Judge Sally Robertson, Zoning and Parks Director Deana Malone and Commissioner Bill Stearns.

Green's response was to disagree with

the points made by several of the officials, including the county's agreement with the DNR about releasing land owned by the DNR. He also appeared not to know the difference between "child welfare" payments, and child protection. Utke and Poston listened politely and promised to remember the county's concerns during the upcoming legislative session. Green also voiced some of the widely-believed but incorrect myths about refugees and immigrants in Minnesota.

In other business, the board

- Approved the new uniform guidance procurement policy received by the auditor/treasurer's office regarding purchase decisions, record-keeping, contract types and price bases.

- Approved the Wadena Pioneer Journal as the county's official newspaper for 2017. The Pioneer Journal will publish the legal notices and the second financial statement for the county. The Sebek-Menahga Review Messenger will publish the first financial statement.

- Approved the corrections act subsidy agreement for 2017.

- Approved a one-year position called drainage ditch specialist to be shared by the highway department and the Soil and Water Conservation District.

- Approved a 2017 compensation plan for all nonunion employees of the county on a new wage scale effective Jan. 1.

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Foster Grandparent volunteers celebrated



15 years of service

Arlene Wynn, right, received a certificate from area supervisor Jon Knopik for 15 years of serving as a Foster Grandparent in the Wadena-Deer Creek School District, at an event in Staples Dec. 13. (Submitted photo)

Foster Grandparents from Central Minnesota gathered Dec 13, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Staples, recognizing their volunteer efforts. Foster

Grandparents volunteer in area schools as role models as they mentor students. Thirty three Foster Grandparents, area educators and Catholic

Charities staff enjoyed a performance by the Staples-Motley High School Choir followed by a catered meal by Ted and Gen's of Aldrich. Foster Grandparent Director Stacy Lund and Area Supervisor Jon Knopik led the program and acknowledged Foster Grandparents with one to 15 years of service. Darcy Brauch, Vonnice Diehl and Kathy Maurer were recognized for their first year of service. Brauch serves at SonRise Christian School in Bluffton, Diehl at Staples-Motley Elementary and Maurer at Menahga Elementary School. Five Foster Grandparents were recognized for five years of service. Joannie Bakken, Carol Wallace and Jo Weiher serve at Wadena-Deer Creek Elementary; Darlene Gillson at Motley-Staples Middle School; and Geneva Hoemberg at Staples-Motley Elementary. John Marsh and Marcia Marsh were recognized for ten years of service at Staples-Motley High School. One Foster Grandparent was recognized for 15 years of service in the program. Arlene Wynn has spent all 15 years at Wadena-Deer Creek Elementary School. "She is so important to our students and me. I

don't know what I'd do without her", remarked teacher Mandy Gallant. Evelyn Snabb, Staples-Motley Elementary; Glenda Gilster, Menahga Elementary; Odelia Wegscheid, Heart of the Lakes Elementary, Perham; Darlene Eiswald and Shirley Schaun, Bertha; and Sylvia Tappe, Verndale schools; were introduced as new volunteers this school year. This marks the 51st Anniversary of the Foster Grandparent Program and the belief that inspired its beginning in 1965. Namely, that seniors have extraordinary gifts and talents to share with vulnerable children. The Foster Grandparent Program offers seniors, age 55 and over, the opportunity to work with students in local schools, or other non-profit agencies where there are children who need extra assistance. The benefits to the volunteer are as great as those to the children. Statistics reveal 90 percent of the Foster Grandparents have reported that volunteering gives them a sense of purpose and 76 percent have reported that their physical and mental health is significantly better when they volunteer. The Foster Grandparent Program offers many ben-



Foster Grandparents

Representing Staples-Motley High School is Catherine Cyr, left, with John and Marcia Marsh, who were being recognized for ten years of service as Foster Grandparents at the high school. The event was held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Staples, on Dec. 13. (Submitted photo)

efits to those who participate, including a tax free hourly stipend, transportation reimbursement for mileage or for using a city bus, orientation, on-going training, health benefits and more. The joy of helping children and getting

frequent hugs seem to be among the "most mentioned" benefits. For more information or to apply to be a Foster Grandparent, contact Jon Knopik at jknopik@ccstcloud.org or 320-229-4593.

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Auditor gave district 'unmodified, clean opinion'

School District levies less than the Staples-Motley District. Estimates for a one-acre non-homestead agricultural property valued at \$4,000 show that two districts, Pine River-Backus and Sebeka, levy less than the Staples-Motley District. DiGiovanni questioned the figures on the agricultural property, wondering if it was based on potential value. "Farmland income is down drastically," he noted. Hoemberg questioned all the graph figures, saying "Those graphs, you can make them to fit, depending on who you want to sell it to." Vacek also reviewed 2015-16 budget revenue and expenditures compared to the estimated budget for 2017. The total levy approved was for \$1,788,660.26, which reflected an underlevy of \$101,792.66.

Audit report Mary Reedy of Clifton-LarsonAllen presented the school district's audit report for the fiscal year 2015-16 noting they were issuing an unmodified, clean opinion. Two areas of concern were noted, both related to the size of the district and number of people in the business office. Reedy suggested there should be more segregation in duties and also that more internal control was needed over financial statement preparations. She also understood those are issues common in smaller school districts and that there are new people in key positions in this district. She said the auditing firm will work with Vacek to put plans in place to mitigate

those areas. The report showed that sources of revenue for the district. The state portion is 74 percent, local tax collection is 11 percent, other local revenue is eight percent and federal revenue is seven percent. The breakdown of expenditures for the district show instruction at 54 percent; pupil support at 13 percent; site, building and equipment at nine percent; administration and capital outlay at five percent each; debt service at four percent; community education, instructional support and district support at three percent each; and fiscal program at one percent. Reedy noted that the district seems to have higher administration and district support per student than the state average or other districts of similar size. However, as she looked at the specific cost codes that contribute to those figures, she found some coding different from what she sees in other districts. She will continue to work with Vacek to examine and possibly reclassify some of those codes. The board voted to accept the report.

In other business, the board: •Decided to table action on the 2017-18 school calendar when questions arose regarding early out days and work days for staff. Dave Hoemberg and Mary Freeman volunteered to meet with the calendar committee to review the concerns and bring recommendations to a future

meeting. •Accepted retirement requests from Cindy Sorenson and Diana Reed at Staples-Motley Elementary. •Approved contracts for Kayla Vejtasa and Jeanne Odden as paraprofessionals, Jim Rollins as bus driver and Josi Longbottom as accounts payable. •Approved maternity leave request from Kaycia Ellingsen for the spring. •Offered their appreciation to Roy DiGiovanni for his service on the school board. He chose not to run again and the Dec. 19 meeting was his last. •Heard in Superintendent Mary Klammm's report that appointments will be set for the board to interview facilities assessment firms on Jan. 30. •Klammm also reported on a number of grants received by the agriculture department. •Heard a report from incoming board member Greg Frisk on a workforce conference he attended at National Joint Powers Alliance.



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Is there a Santa Claus?

Eight-year-old Virginia O’Hanlon wrote a letter to the editor of New York’s Sun, and the quick response was printed as an unsigned editorial Sept. 21, 1897. The work of veteran newsman Francis Pharcellus Church has since become history’s most reprinted newspaper editorial, appearing in part or whole in dozens of languages in books, movies, and other editorials, and on posters and stamps.

The column began:
“We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of THE SUN”

“DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.
“Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
“Papa says, ‘If you see it in THE SUN it’s so.’
“Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?”

“VIRGINIA O’HANLON.
“115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET.”

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men’s or children’s, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but

that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that’s no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby’s rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Addendum

The letter gave Francis Pharcellus Church an opportunity to rise above the simple question and address the philosophical issues behind it. Church was a war correspondent during the American Civil War, a time that saw great suffering and a corresponding lack of hope and faith in much of society.

Virginia O’Hanlon’s full married name was Laura Virginia O’Hanlon Douglas. She was born on July 20, 1889, in Manhattan, New York. Her marriage to Edward Douglas in the 1910s was brief, and ended with him deserting her shortly before their daughter, Laura, was born. She was listed as divorced in the 1930 United States Census.

Virginia received her Bachelor of Arts from Hunter College in 1910, a Master’s degree in education from Columbia University in 1912, and a doctorate from Fordham University. She was a school teacher in the New York City ISD. She started her career as an educator in 1912, became a junior principal in 1935, and retired in 1959.

Virginia received a steady stream of mail about her letter throughout her life. She would include a copy of the editorial in her replies. In an interview later in life, she credited it with shaping the direction of her life quite positively.

Virginia died on May 13, 1971, in a nursing home in Valatie, New York. She is buried at the Chatham Rural Cemetery in North Chatham, New York.



Letter to the Editor

Wrestling fan

I graduated 50 years ago from Staples High School and was proud to be a wrestler under the outstanding guidance of Don Dravis, Norm Card, Greg Lieferman and others. I still follow wrestling closely and it’s very exciting to see the Staples-Motley Cardinal wrestling program making strides once again to being well respected and successful.

I want to let the community know how much they should appreciate the dedication of the coaching staff, Mr. Anglin, Mr. Miller, Mr. Heldman, Mr. Holst and another one or two whose names I’ve forgotten but you probably are aware of. These gentlemen have worked hard to rebuild a once very successful program and they’ve gotten

some wonderful kids to lead the way.

I can’t name all the kids but I closely watched a freshman, Bjerga, wrestle to fifth place at the Big Bear tournament this past weekend and while doing so lost a close match, 8-6 to the champion and a returning state champion Nohre from West Central.

I watched Erpelding at 182, win a championship at the Big Bear with a dramatic come from behind 8-5 victory over a very talented Justin Dravis, (grandson of Don, now wrestling for his dad Jeff, a coach at Park Rapids). What a great match and two very competitive highly ranked wrestlers.

The Miller boy also was a champion and my apologies for not remembering all the others who placed in leading their team to the

third place trophy among 39 schools represented but I’m sure you got a full run down of the results. That’s terrific.

My intent is to simply bring attention to the accomplishments, dedication and hard work of the current coaching staff and wrestlers. I encourage everyone in Staples with an interest in sports and wrestling in particular, to get out and support this team and help them make a run at the section title this year, where they will likely face West Central Area in what could be a tremendous match. Go Cardinals!

Thanks to the coaches and kids for all their work and good luck after the Christmas break.

Appreciative lifelong fan!
Jerry Cleveland
Bemidji, Minn.

Poinsett’s legacy lives on in Christmas flower

By Tom Emery

Some say it just isn’t Christmas without the poinsettia, a colorful addition to the holiday season. Outside of his native state, the flower’s namesake has been lost to history.

The plant is named for Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first American ambassador to Mexico, who distributed cuttings of the flower he found during a diplomatic excursion. Botany was one of many interests for Poinsett, a renaissance man ahead of his time.

Born on March 2, 1779 in Charleston, S.C., Poinsett was educated in England and spoke six languages. One scholar described him as “socially skilled, well-connected, and...a gracious host.”

Extensive travel in Europe as a young man brought him in contact

with many European dignitaries. Poinsett then spent 1810-1815 in South America upon appointment of President Madison, who sent him to determine which nations in rebellion with Spain were interested in treaties with America.

After a stint in the South Carolina legislature, Poinsett was elected to three terms in the U.S. House as a Democrat. He resigned during his third term in 1825 to accept an appointment by President Monroe as the first U.S. Minister to Mexico.

He held the position until 1829 and was often at the center of controversy, particularly over Texas annexation. Poinsett unsuccessfully attempted to broker a \$5 million deal to acquire Texas, and his relations with the Mexican government were strained.

While in Mexico, Poinsett became fascinated with a red flower called Flor de Noche Buena, or the Christmas Eve Flower. In 1828, he shipped cuttings of the flower to friends, and one made its way to the Royal Botanic Garden in Scotland.

Despite the turmoil surrounding his time in Mexico, Poinsett had scattered support as a Presidential candidate. Elected to another term in the South Carolina house in 1830, he earned a spot in President Van Buren’s Cabinet as Secretary of War in 1837.

During his term, Poinsett advocated exploration of the American West and played a key role in the creation of the National Institution for the Promotion of Science, now the Smithsonian Institution. He also hired Robert Mills, another South Carolina resident, to create what became the National Mall in Washington.

For much of the 1830s and 1840s, Poinsett spent time at his fine home near Greenville, S.C., which featured a scenic garden that he designed. He remained

politically active after leaving the Cabinet in 1841 and opposed both the Mexican War and his state’s secession movement.

Poinsett died near Statesburg, S.C. on Dec. 12, 1851 and is buried in the Episcopal Cemetery there.

The day of his death has been designated National Poinsettia Day in the United States, a holiday that, like Poinsett himself, is largely obscure.

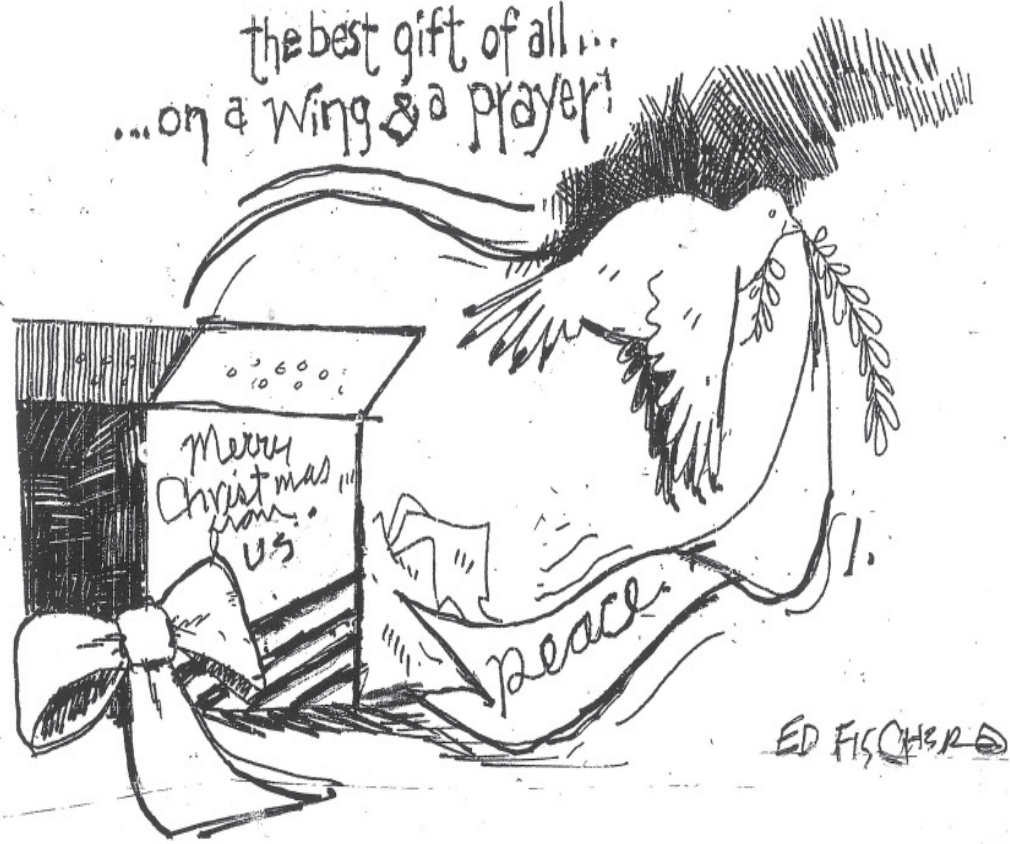
However, he remains a stalwart of South Carolina history. A state park and electronic combat range for military training south of Sumter both bear his name, while in Greenville, a bridge, highway, and hotel all are named for him. A statue of Poinsett is also a Greenville attraction.

The poinsettia has become a \$250 million industry in the United States, largely due to the efforts of Albert Ecke, a German immigrant in southern California at the turn of the century who shared Poinsett’s fascination with the flower. His son, Paul Sr., created a grafting technique to aid production, while his grandson, Paul Jr., helped launch the poinsettia into an American holiday fixture.

Today, the Paul Ecke Ranch near Encinitas, Calif. accounts for 70 percent of all American poinsettia purchases and half of worldwide sales. The best-selling potted plant in both the U.S. and Canada, poinsettias are usually bought by women, resulting in eighty percent of sales.

Some 100 varieties of poinsettias are available today, though 74 percent of Americans still prefer red poinsettias, followed by eight percent white and six percent pink.

Tom Emery is a freelance writer and historical researcher from Carlinville, Illinois. He may be reached at 217-710-8392 or tlcivilwar@yahoo.com.



Staples World

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The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

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Koopmann Family to perform New Year's Eve

Start your New Year's Eve festivities with the multi-talented Koopmann Family, who will be performing at the United Methodist Church in Motley on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 2 p.m., as part of the Staples Motley Area Arts Council's regular season.

Expect to hear a variety of music from the Koopmanns, known for their stellar instrumentals brought to life by trumpet, harp, piano, violin, guitar and cello; sprinkled with crystal clear vocals and some humor as part of their show.

The group hails from Motley and consists of husband and wife John and Cindy; along with daughters Sarah and Anna. They will be joined by Twin Cities-based jazz guitarist Karl Koopmann, John's brother.

"We want people to feel like they're with us in our living room, enjoying music together on a Saturday afternoon," Cindy Koopmann said recently.

They represent a wealth of musical knowledge and experience.

John, a Detroit Lakes native, currently works as the director of the orchestra program for the Staples Motley School District. In addition to his teaching and conducting skills, John is a renowned trumpet player. He has served as principal trumpet for the Minnesota Opera Orchestra since 1998; and has per-

formed with a number of nationally-acclaimed acts, including the Minnesota Orchestra, North Star Opera, American Ballet Theater, Vocal Essence Music Series, Celtic Thunder and Mannheim Steamroller. Recently, he provided trumpet for the Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant Christmas concert at Target Center in Minneapolis, an event he has been a part of for the past three years. He holds a music education degree from Concordia College in Moorhead and has pursued graduate studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Cindy (Trout) is a graduate of Motley High School, where she was a student of Jeanne Rohr, who inspired in her a love of music education. She went on to earn a degree in marimba performance and music education from Concordia College in Moorhead, where she and John met. "We were in band together," she recalled, adding that it was during a band tour that they first got to know each other. "We sat together on the tour bus."

John and Cindy eventually got married and down the road brought two daughters into the world. Their oldest, Sarah, is currently a sophomore at St. Thomas University in St. Paul, where she is studying General Business Administration and Public Health; and plays violin in the college orchestra. In



Family variety show

The Koopmann Family will offer a variety of music at their New Year's Eve Day Show in Motley on Saturday, Dec. 31, at 2 p.m. Pictured, from left, are Anna, Cindy, John and Sarah Koopmann. This concert is underwritten by Ernie's Grocery. (Submitted photo)

addition, Sarah is a paid section leader at a Twin Cities church; and plays on occasion with a folk band. Their youngest, Anna, is a freshman at St. Olaf College in Northfield, pursu-

ing degrees in English and harp performance. She plays in both of the college orchestras; and in addition to harp, is studying cello and voice.

"Music has always been

a big part of both of our families," Cindy said, adding that her dad is very musical and that her grandfather Gerald Trout was in a band years ago. John's mom is a gifted pianist;

and when she was younger, taught organ and voice lessons. Having both grown up with music in the home, John and Cindy are glad that it is a part of their immediate family as well.

They're looking forward to reuniting for this holiday show in Motley, which will include a few Christmas favorites in addition to their regular repertoire. "It will be a variety show," Cindy said, adding that Anna will be performing a silly skit song and John will be debuting an original piece on the piano. There's been a request to hear John and Sarah's duet rendition of "The Prayer" which may be on the program as well.

"And since it's New Year's Eve, we plan on performing, 'Auld Lange Syne,'" Cindy said.

Still to come on this year's Staples Motley Area Arts Council season are Dawn Timbs, Ted Feyder and Gary Timbs, performing folk, country and gospel music; and Mikko & Friends, a traditional Irish Pub Band.

For more information, check out the arts council's website at www.staplesmotleyarts.org.

Tickets for The Koopmann Family concert are available online at the arts council's website; or purchase them by cash or check at the Staples World, located at 224 4th St. NE in Staples. For more information call 218-894-1112.



Holiday fun at the library

Gingerbread was the theme during story time at the Staples Public Library on Dec. 8. Children and parents made gingerbread houses and during the monthly storytime the kids read stories about the gingerbread man that ran away. For snacks they frosted gingerbread cookies and decorated them. These programs were sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.

In the photo top left are Grace Hanson and Amelia Cuppy enjoying their cookies. Creating their gingerbread houses are Kristen Hurtig and her children, Anna and Austin, top right. At left are Becky Roelofs and her daughter Lydia choosing and placing their edible decorations. (Submitted photos)

The next Reading Roundhouse Storytime for pre-schoolers will be at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 11. Call 218-894-1401 to preregister.

Staples City Council agenda

The Staples City Council will meet Tuesday, Dec. 27, at 7 p.m. at the Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE, Staples.

Preliminary agenda

items include:

- Approve consent agenda.
- Open forum.
- City administrator's report.

TEN HI
Motley / 352-6310
On/Off Sale/Off-Sale Specials
December 24.
Stop in for a complimentary
tom & Jerry or glass of wine.
Closing at 6 p.m.
New Year's Eve:
'Nathan Allen'
The "maniac of magic"
Part magician/part comedian.
*Shows at 7 & 10 p.m.
NO COVER CHARGE.
Reservations appreciated.
Fri., & Sat., Dec. 23 & 24
***FREE Jukebox**
NO MINORS AFTER 8:00 P.M.

COZY THEATRE
Wadena, MN

Screen Wed. thru Thurs. Dec. 21 - Jan. 12
2 Shows Every Night at 7:00 & 9:30
MATINEE SUN. DEC. 25 AT 3:00 PM

ROGUE ONE
Star Wars
Screen Wed. thru Thurs. Dec. 21 - Jan. 5
2 Shows Every Night at 7:10 & 9:30
MATINEE SUN. DEC. 25 AT 3:10 PM

PASSENGERS
Screen Wed. thru Thurs. Dec. 21 - Jan. 5
WED. THURS. FRI. DEC. 21-22-23
One Show at 7:15 ONLY!
SUN. THRU THURS. DEC. 25 - 29
2 SHOWS AT 7:15 & 9:30
MATINEE SUN. DEC. 25 AT 3:15 PM

SING
The Cozy will be closed Saturday Dec. 24th
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
From all of us at the Cozy!
MATINEES AND TUESDAY BARGAIN NIGHT
ALL SEATS \$5.00!
www.cozytheatre.com

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Happy Holidays.
From Brian, Tasha and the Staff.

**Tom and Jerrys
served Dec. 24 noon-6 p.m.**

Come and watch the
game on the
BIG SCREEN!

We will be
CLOSED
on Christmas Day
in Staples,
Minn.

Lefty's

Holiday Deadlines

For the
Dec. 29 Staples World
Jan. 5 Staples World

The deadline is:
5 p.m., Dec. 22
5 p.m., Dec. 29

The Staples World office will close
at noon Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.
We will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Staples World



Senior Companion volunteers

Todd Senior Companion volunteers with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota were recently honored for their service. Senior Companions provide companionship, transportation to grocery shop, medical appointments and assistance to elderly community members, allowing them to continue living independently. Volunteers serve 15-20 hours a week, receive a small tax-free stipend, mileage reimbursement, training and the satisfaction of helping other seniors in need. Marcia Ferris is the Regional Program Manager for LSS Senior Corps, which is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Minnesota Board on Aging. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Marcia at 1-877-612-6243 or Marcia.Ferris@lssmn.org. In Todd County the program also partners with Todd County Health and Human Services. From left are Marjorie Morawczynski, five years; Sue Stine - Volunteer Leade, seven years; Marilyn Gibson, six years; and Eleanor Webster, 14 years. (Submitted photo)

Lakewood Health System receives national recognition

Lakewood Health System has been recognized by iVantage Health Analytics and the National Organization of State Office of Rural Health (NOSORH) for overall excellence in patient satisfaction and financial strength, reflecting top quartile performance among all rural acute care hospitals in the nation. “This award is the result of focusing on the needs of our patients and community and having a great team of healthcare professionals who are passionate about making a difference,” said LHS President and CEO, Tim Rice. “We are honored to be recognized for those efforts.”

The rankings have been determined by the Hospital Strength INDEX, the industry’s most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance. In partnership with NOSORH, iVantage Health Analytics has developed a data-driven program designed to identify excellence across a broad spectrum of indicators relevant to hospital performance and patient care. The Hospital Strength INDEX captures performance metrics for all rural and Critical Access Hospitals. Leveraging data from public data sources, INDEX aggregates data from 66 individual metrics into three

major categories and nine pillars to derive a single strength overall rating for each facility. “These top quartile performers should take great pride in this recognition. It showcases their commitment to continuous performance analysis and improvement. On this occasion of National Rural Health Day, it’s an honor to celebrate their achievement as they continue to serve their communities despite the many market, regulatory and financial pressures they face,” said Michael Topchik, National Leader of the Chartis Center for Rural Health.



First quarter Accelerated Readers

The top readers in the Accelerated Reading program at Staples-Motley High School for the first quarter were front, from left: Elizabeth Noble, Abbigail DiGiovanni, Izabelle VanAlst and Amy Michel; back, from left, Jeremy Stultz, Gage Kieffer, Kasidy White, Brian Seaman. Andrew Bates and Ezra Trantina were not available for the photo. (Submitted photo)

Obituaries



Fern Branchaud

Fern Branchaud, 89, of Staples passed away December 19, 2016 at Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples. Funeral services will be held Friday, Dec. 23, at 2 p.m., at the Brenny Funeral Chapel in Staples, with visitation from 1 to 2:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Interment will be at St. James Cemetery in Philbrook. Arrangements are with Brenny Funeral Chapel of Staples.

Fern Rose Branchaud was born September 21, 1927, to Forrest and Nellie (Hedglin) Webster in Detroit Lakes, where she also grew up. She married Martin Branchaud on February 13, 1948. The couple lived in Fargo, Ponsford and Detroit Lakes. In 1973, Fern moved to Dent, where she worked at the potato and egg plant in Perham. Later Fern worked at the turkey plant in Pelican Rapids, retiring from there after 30 years of service. Fern moved to Staples in 2007. She enjoyed horses, miniature donkeys, her many collections, reading, baking, embroidery, gardening and spending time with her great-grandchildren

She is survived by four daughters, Victoria Tomlinson, McAllen, TX, Debbie Prodoehl, Dardanelle, AR, Mickie (Bob) Hensenius, Brook Park and Kathie (Tim) Carlson, Motley; four sons, Kyle “Rocky” (Barb) Branchaud, Motley, Patrick (Connie) Branchaud, Austin, Robin (Terrie) Branchaud, Lake Park and Douglas Branchaud, Detroit Lakes; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; one brother, Howard Webster, Webster, SD.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; four brothers, Gordon, George, Gerald and Bob; an infant sister; one grandson, Luke Hensenius; two sons-in-law, Bruce Tomlinson and Del Prodoehl and special friend, Norb Rosenthal



Ida Frodahl

Ida Diehl Frodahl, 96, of Staples, passed away December 17, 2016 at Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples. Memorial services will be held Thursday, Dec. 22, at 11 a.m., at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples. Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the church. Arrangements are with Brenny Funeral Chapel and Cremation Service of Staples.

Ida was born July 9, 1920 in Goodridge to Hans and Ragnhild (Olson) Fjeld. She grew up and attended school in Goodridge, graduating in 1938. On October 13, 1939 she married George Henry Diehl, in Goodridge. The couple farmed at Smiley Township, near Thief River Falls. George passed away in 1964. Ida began working as an Avon representative and a secretary at Lincoln High School. She married Max Frodahl on November 9, 1974 in Thief River Falls. Following her retirement, they enjoyed traveling, particularly to Texas. Ida also enjoyed walking, reading, gardening, crocheting, embroidering and visiting with family. They lived in Cambridge, then in Mora. Ida was widowed again in 2004 and moved to Staples in 2005 and to the LHS Care Center in 2014.

Ida is survived by five daughters, Vonnice Diehl, of Staples, Kae Rude, of Cushing, Jan Axton, of Detroit Lakes, Judi Poppenhagen (Kip), of Maple Grove, and Doreen Moore (Dave), of Ham Lake; two stepchildren, Claudia Salisbury and Christina Haverty; ten grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren and nine great great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two husbands; three sisters, Betsy, Alma and Marie; five brothers, Henry, Otto, Oscar, Melvin and Alvin; one son-in-law, Harlan Rude and one granddaughter, Pamela Walton.



Robert Ferris

Robert A. “Bob” Ferris, 72, Motley, died December 14 at his home.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Dec. 19, at St. Michael Catholic Church in Motley, with Fr. Joe Korff presiding

Interment will be held in the spring at Our Lady of Lourdes Cemetery, Little Falls.

Arrangements were with Brenny Funeral Chapel of Staples.

Bob was born on January 11, 1944 in Staples to George and Bernice (Wrede) Ferris, where he grew up and attended school. He married Jacquelyn “Jackie” Zak on November 1, 1963 in Sisseton, South Dakota. They lived in Hopkins. In 1966, Bob began working with the Bloomington Police Department for over 33 years. While with the department, he worked undercover as head of the Vice Squad and a variety of other positions, before retiring as a sergeant in 1999. Upon retirement, they moved to Motley, where Bob enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, traveling and horses. He also did taxidermy and enjoyed going to the casino.

Bob was a member of the MN Police Association, Ducks Unlimited and the NRA. He received the Medal of Valor while serving as a police officer.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years; four sons, Jeff (Lori) Ferris of Bemidji, Jay (Cheryl) Ferris of Chicago, Jared (Courtney) Ferris of Pillager and Jonathon (Krystal) Ferris of Verndale; three daughters, Jaurone (Ben) Richards of Cushing, Jennifer (Brett) Sibert of Hewitt, Jill (Nate) Lindstrom of Albertville; 19 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; one brother, Tom Ferris of Bemidji, two sisters, Genette (Barry) Dies of Apple Valley and Gayle Ferris of St. Paul.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Genece and Georgene; one nephew.

From You to Me and Me to You
During quiet walks through quiet streets
As I lay my head to sleep
The unprovoked whiplash and undisclosed thoughts
Leave this agonizing sense of incomplete.
Flashes of you, your face, your words
Hit me like a truck and leave my senses blurred.
The time well spent and memories made
Place me in this timeless haze.
Your gallant attempts to teach me my states.
Hopeless I was, so we moved on to skates.
Playing Grand Theft Auto before it was cool
While using Tony Hawk to introduce me to old school.
Continually there, until you were not.
Even writing that now leaves me discontentedly distraught.
I wish I'd been older so we could've had more time
But even with you gone, I see the things you've left behind.
Buying my first hiking backpack, I thought of you.
Our walks, your laugh, our memories, your eyes.
The moments that remind me of these inexplicable ties.
The night is silent
But my heart is not
You, my brother, are the bridge for worlds apart.
-Dominique Koppes
In Memory of Mitchell Koppes
12-27-84 -- 7-12-2008

Help Send Tera off...
Tera's 2-year mission trip begins soon. Come for fellowship and refreshments
Friday, Dec. 30
6 to 9 p.m.
Staples Assembly of God Church
tera.weyer@gmail.com

Thank you for reading the Staples World

Christmas for Kids
The Staples '93 Lions would like to thank the Staples and Motley communities for their support with our Christmas for Kids service project this year. We've served 95 families in need with a total of 230 kids.
Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Staples '93 Lions.

Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL:
Born to Breanna Robben of Motley, a baby girl, Paislee Becca Jean weighing seven pounds, 7.5 ounces on December 9, 2016.
Born to Kyler and Victoria Helmin of Cushing, a baby boy, Dawson Leigh weighing eight pounds, nine ounces on December 11, 2016.
Born to Stephen and Brittany Springer of Henning, a baby girl, Paisley Jo weighing eight pounds on December 12, 2016.
Born to Jessica Teel and George Huesmann of Backus, a baby girl, Alexi Lynn weighing seven pounds, one ounce on December 13, 2016.
Born to Clay and Katharine Sandmeyer of Eagle Bend, a baby girl, Leyna LaRaine weighing five pounds, 10 ounces on December 13, 2016.

Born to Jacob and Megan May of Long Prairie, a baby boy, Lennon Herbert weighing seven pounds, four ounces on December 14, 2016.
Born to James and Christina Fonteyn of Staples, a baby girl, Jaidyn Bernice weighing six pounds, 14 ounces on December 14, 2016.
Born to Christopher and Kali Schwantz of Bertha, a baby boy, Jerome Leslie Duane weighing seven pounds, seven ounces on December 14, 2016.
Born to Megyn Asmus and Tyler Klimek of Eagle Bend, a baby boy, Jaxen Lee weighing seven pounds, 15 ounces on December 15, 2016.
Born to Marguerite Jones and Jayden Cardias of Jenkins, a baby girl, Olivia Grace weighing six pounds, six ounces on December 15, 2016.

William Barg

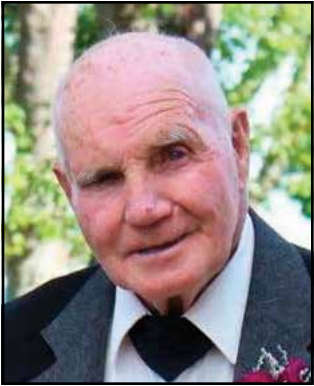
William Eugene Barg, 83, of Pillager passed away December 15, 2016, as the result of a farming accident.

Memorial services were held Dec. 20, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Motley.

Interment will be held in the spring at Bridgeman Cemetery.

Arrangements were with Brenny Funeral Chapel of Staples.

Bill was born March 22, 1933 in Calhoun County, Iowa, to William and Theresa (Schienbein) Barg. He graduated from Motley High School in 1951. He served two years in the U.S. Army and attended North Dakota State University, where he received a degree in Architectural Drawing. He worked construction and carpentry jobs, while residing on his farm, where he raised beef cattle and horses.



Bill is survived by Shirley, his wife of 46 years; two sons, Jason (Jen) and Clayton; eight grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; two sisters, Corrine Anderson, of Becker, Luella Knutson, of Pillager, two brothers, Ronald (Connie) Barg, of DuBois, Idaho and Virgil (Theresa) Barg, of St. Anthony, Idaho.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Student Achievements

EMILY DOSS, Pillager, participated in the summer/fall commencement exercises at Minnesota State University, Mankato on Dec. 10. Doss received her Masters of Arts in Teaching degree.

JOSHUA WUOLLET, Staples, participated in the summer/fall commencement exercises at Minnesota State University, Mankato on Dec. 10. Wuollet received a Master of Science degree in math.

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Baxter: 218-828-9545 toll free 877-338-3937

Dr. Evan Kuhn

Letters to Santa...

Dear Santa,
I hope you know my list. This year please bring what I want please. If you know my list. Thank you for bringing Christmas to all the good kids. If there's bad kids just give them a lump of coal and bring all the good kids toys.
Thank you,
Reid Judd
age 8

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is a new pair of shoes that are shiny and red. I also would like some new Little People princesses and castle. Please bring me some sparkly pocket jeans. My brother wants an Xbox with some games on it. After Christmas, make sure Mrs. Clause makes some gingerbread. Thank you, Santa Clause, for bringing Christmas to all of the good people. And just give the bad people a big lump of coal.
Love,
Kennedy Elayne Judd
age 5
And we wish you a Merry Christmas!

Dear Santa,
I have been really good this year. Please bring me camo hunting cloths. I also like to build things. I like to do art projects.
Thank you!
Jackson Odden
age 6

Dear Santa,
I would like a remote control helicopter. I will leave cookies and mile for you on Christmas Eve.
Jace Odden
age 3
Dear Santa,
Please b ring me Baby Alive with a bottle. I will try hard to be a good girl.
Alexis Odden
age 3

Dear Santa,
I would like a John Deere Fellerbuncher 1270E Harvester Prestige. It is a new Fellerbuncher with wheels. I hope you have it. I will leave carrots for the raindeer and mile and cookies for you. My brother and I have been good boys this year.
Carter Odden
age 5
Dear Santa,
I want a cowgril hat, an Ipod and Anything Else you want to bring me! I been good!
Love,
Chloe Trantina

Dear Santa,
I've been good. I really want a phone. I would like a "guess where game", "crocodile dentist game", mini mixiegs, and "lern with me color fun fish bowl".
Please
Jaida Holst

Dear Santa,
I've been good. I really want numsnms and shopkins, a doll with clothes and shoes, twozies, and a snow flake blanket.
Love,
Aleea Holst
Merry Christmas Santa,
For Christmas I wold like a shimmer & shine microphone, Legos, play doh & a Troll set and book. Also a team umizoomi DVD, a doll house, and a star shaped pillow.
Santa I like your reindeer. Your the best.
Lexis Brever

Dear Santa,
For Christmas I would like a fire truck, green hammer, John Deeere tractor, paw patrol put zuma, and a remote control paw patrol
Merry Christmas to you Santa and your reindeer.
Weston Lind
Dear Santa,
My name is Justin. I am 7 years old. Thank you for the Xbox you gave me last year. I use it all the time. This year I would like Lego Star Wars sets. How does my elf fly. I hope you like your treats.
form,
Justin

Dear Santa,
My name is Daniel. I am 8 years old. Thank you for the Pistachio you gave me last year. I ate then. How do you visit all the boys and girls in one night This year I would love a 53 ford that was black pickup.
Daniel
Dear Santa,
my name is Matthew I am 9 years old. I cant see that well. Thank you for the Nerf gun that you gave me last year. I use it all the time. How old are you? I hope you like the treats.
From
Matthew

Dear Santa,
My name is Thomas I am 7 years old. I wote a pockmen book and vididoe games and a sckbord and a Ds and a NintendoDs and xbox ls and a xbox 360 and a tv in my room and a computer and a phne and Ipad. And how old are you ...
Thomas
Dear Santa,
My name is Peyton wute I wont for crismus is a elechrik tow car that you can ride in and schrodarey shortcake prinsess faretails move and a gumdo teddare
Peyton

Dear Santa,
My name is nathan. I want 1 3ds 1 pasic cuh throlla and sum paper. I am 7 yers olde. How olde are you

Write her plesni.
Nathan
Dear Santa,
My name is Carter. I am 7 years old. I like aplesauce. Thank you for the wiiu you gave me last year. I use it every day. how many elfs do you have I would love a 3ds I hope you and your reindeer enjoy the treats
Carter

Dear Santa,
My name is kristina wate I want is a big a naf Elsa car and a schrobare shortkace perises Tals move and that Elsa car I want it elechrik at you can ridin
Kristina

Dear Santa,
My name is any. You are the best. How do your reindeer hold. How heovy is your toy bag
Dear Santa,
My name is cara I 7 years old I Thank you for the you gave me. How what ...? This year I would love How do the reindeer fly? How cold is it at the north? How heavy is your toy bag
Cara

Dear Santa,
My name is Corben and I am 7 years old. I love trucks and tractors. Thank you for the NFL team brick for me and my brothers last year. We love it. How heavy is your toy bag?
Corben

Dear Santa,
My name is Ethan. I am sevin years old. You are the best ever! Are the elves going to bring the present I am waiting for? The present tell you is at Mills Fleet Farm
from
Ethan
Dear Santa,
I wont my Dad for chrisma. I would also like a mobile hot spot for my phone will you please bring me a new phone I would also like a new sim card + a sd card for my phone. What would you like for cristmas?
From
Rueben

Dear Santa
I want a makeup set for Christmas and a robot dog and a robot cat for Christmas Santa I love you please.
I love you
Brooklyn Winter
Dear Santa
I would Like a red Dinotrux TyRux, Power Rangers T-Rex, Batman toys.
Joshua Winter Jr.



Giving program by Lakewood Health System

Lakewood Health System has completed the sixth year of its Holiday Giving program which was started by the Special Events Committee in 2010. In those six years, 28 Lakewood departments have "adopted" 104 families for the holidays. The Holiday Giving program began when the committee was looking for a way to give back to the communities it serves, so they decided to ask Lakewood employees to "adopt" a local family for the holidays. The committee partners with social workers from the following organizations who match Lakewood departments with area families: Staples-Motley School District; Browerville-Eagle Bend School District; Pillager Family Center; Todd County Social Services; Wadena County Social Services; and Lakewood Health System Home-Based Services. Each department receives a list of items their family needs, and/or gift



LHS givers

Pictured above are some of the Lakewood Health System employees who contributed to the Holiday Giving program in 2016. (Submitted photo)

ideas for each family's children. The departments are responsible for purchasing,

wrapping and either delivering gifts to the families, or delivering them to the school to be picked-up. The

gifts are all received by the families during the week of Christmas.

Sharing songs of the season

Members of the Staples-Motley School Orchestra, under the direction of John Koopmann performed some Christmas carols at Motley United Methodist Church Dec. 18, as part of the third annual Bill Berndt Community Christmas Concert. Pictured, from left, are Alex McIlravy, Tabetha Allen, Alex Brings, Jonah Johnson. The students also accompanied the audience in the closing song, "I'll Fly Away." (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Christmas quartet

The Staples Alliance Church Quartet performed, "Christmas Hallelujah" at the Bill Berndt Community Christmas Concert in Motley Dec. 18. Pictured from left: Paul Johnson, Nick Schultz, Aaron Krienke, Gary Schimpp. The quartet was one of nine groups that participated at the third annual event, held at Motley United Methodist Church. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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Dec. 29 Staples World	5 p.m., Dec. 22
Jan. 5 Staples World	5 p.m., Dec. 29

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Acorn Hill EAAT

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Receiving applause

The directors and accompanists of the Staples-Motley High School Music Department's, "A Cardinal Christmas" concert, received an enthusiastic round of applause at the close of the event Dec. 19. Held at Centennial Auditorium to a packed house, the concert featured a variety of Christmas music performed by the Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, A Cappella Choir, Bell Choir, Chamber Orchestra and Christmas Brass. Pictured from left are Jon Crust, band director; John Koopmann, orchestra director; Caleb Horn, choir director; Cindy Koopmann, bell choir director/accompanist; Sandy Paskewitz, accompanist. As has been tradition for several decades, the concert began with a candle light procession of "For all the Saints" and closed with G.F. Handel's, "Hallelujah!"



Singing, 'Noel'

The Staples-Motley High School A Cappella Choir, directed by Caleb Horn, performed the rousing African song, "Noel," at their Christmas concert Dec. 19, at Centennial Auditorium in Staples. Pictured in front playing the drum is senior Coleman Klimek. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

SVENDSEN continued from page 1a

Hard work, great rewards, marked her experience

Academy. Samantha had been told there would be 60 students in her class. "So, we had triple the amount of work than we thought," she said.

A typical work day entailed duty at the ship's helm, going on safety rounds and keeping a look out for danger.

"We didn't get a lot of sleep," Samantha said, mentioning that it was extremely tiring if you were assigned the overnight shift from 10 p.m. - 6 a.m. The daily gym class was held from 6:15 - 7:30 a.m., which seemed somewhat pointless to Samantha since the students were

doing so much physical work everyday anyway.

After months of climbing the mast to help unfurl the sails, Samantha said she "became like a little monkey." This process included climbing to the highest sail (approximately 135 ft.), unfurling the ropes holding the sails, pushing off the sails and then climbing back down.

"The first time I did this it took me 32 minutes; but by the end of my time there the entire process only took me five minutes," Samantha said.

She set goals for herself along the way. "I wouldn't allow myself to fail...I think that got me through the hard times."

The weather was somewhat of a challenge as well. Samantha noted that it was extremely hot and humid most of the time and they were only allowed to shower every other day. "You were always sweating and salty," she said.

"I think one of the hardest parts of this experience was keeping morale high," she said.

It was also difficult to be away from her family for so long, Samantha said, mentioning her mother, Amy; and older brothers Spencer and Skyler. "I only got to see my mom once during that time," Samantha said, going on to say that her mom (along with family friends, Brian and Heather Sams and their sons, Iain, Cael and Elijah) flew to Panama for a few days in December of 2015. "That was so much fun," she said.

"It was really hard to be away from my family during Christmas, because that is such a tradition at our house," Samantha said.

She recalled Christmas Day onboard the Sørlandet, which was 'slightly' different from the way she would have celebrated back home in Staples. "We watched, 'Elf' and had gingerbread cookies," Samantha said. "They also made us a special meal and we all ate together for a change."

One of the "coolest experiences" she had was during New Year's Eve, Samantha said. "We were sailing from Panana to the Galapagos Islands and we crossed the equator at exactly 12 midnight. It was really cool," Samantha said, recalling that some of the crew "dropped the ball" as is traditionally done in New York Times Square.

Samantha enjoyed the opportunity to explore different countries along the way. She recounted a number of incredible experiences, including riding camels in the deserts of Morocco; and sight-seeing in Indonesia where they "toured the largest Buddhist temple in the world. It was really cool."

Another highlight was her birthday on April 22. "I turned 17 when I was in Australia and went diving that day at the Great Barrier Reef," Samantha said.

She learned so much during her months enrolled at A+Academy, Samantha said. Through living and working with students from various cultures, as well as spending time in other countries, Samantha said, "It really widened my perspective on so many things. It's changed how I think about everything."

In addition, Samantha said she made some life-long friends during her time onboard the Sørlandet. "I met some incredible people," she said, mentioning one of her best friends, Annie, from Canada.

Next year, Samantha plans to attend Concordia College in Moorhead. "I'd like to major in Environmental Studies and minor in Spanish," she said.

In the meantime, she's been enjoying her senior year at SMHS and reconnecting with all of her friends.

Although she loves sailing, Samantha's content to be inland for awhile...especially at Christmas time, when there is snow on the ground.

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
Pastor Bob Hepokoski, Paul Johnson
Mark Shea, Pastor of Student Ministries
Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School..... 11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA..... 6:15 p.m.

Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples 218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Youth Pastor Julie Boone
Discipleship Class..... 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Prayer 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sonlight & Youth 6:30 p.m.

Church of Christ
27343 490th St., Staples..... 218-894-2609
Pastor Barry Klein
Website: www.stapleschurchofchrist.org
Bible School (youth and adult)..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Congregational Church, UCC
204 5th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2571
Pastor Tony Romaine
Worship..... 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship, refreshments following service

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples
218-894-1546
Emelia Enquist, Director of Youth, Family & Christian Ed.
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
Worship Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:35 a.m.
and Coffee Fellowship 10:45 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2296
Church.....
Pastor Fr. Joe Korf
Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator:
Monica J. Simmons..... 218-414-0081 cell/text
MASS:
Thursday and Friday..... 8:30 a.m.
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
218-894-0033
Jeff Scoggins, Pastor
Saturday Worship 9:30 am.
Sabbath School..... 10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples..... 218-894-3923
Pastor Nathan Hillman
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship..... 11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples 218-894-2372
Rev. Robin Collins
Sunday Divine Service..... 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class..... 10:15 a.m.

United Methodist
310 5th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2248
Pastor Greg Ciesluk
Sunday Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)
Sunday School (for grades K-12 and adults)
..... 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Aldrich

Congregational, UCC
One block S. of Hwy. 10, Aldrich
Pastor Dave Seaton 218-445-5831
Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.
Communion..... 1st Sunday of Month

Balsamlund Lutheran
19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Eric Clapp 701-261-2394 (cell)
Sunday Worship..... 8:15 a.m.
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.

Cushing

Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd. Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
www.bethanylutherancushing.com.
Rev. Jean M. Megorden
Lay Pastor Bob Mueller
Sunday Worship..... 9:00 a.m.

Lincoln Evangelical Free
1354 320th St., Cushing..... 218-575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Friday Office Closed
Visitation Pastor: Jim Brown
Youth Coordinator: Kelly Gelle
SUNDAY
Sunday School for all ages 9:00 a.m.
Worship Gathering 10:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Praise & Prayer 4:30 p.m.
Kids' Club 6:00 p.m.
Jr./Sr. Forge Youth Group 6:00 p.m.

Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
www.cushingbaptistchurch.org
Pastor Dan Holmes..... 320-749-2583
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible study 7:30 p.m.

Leaf River Township
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Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info. # 218-837-5690
Open by arrangement

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader 218-397-2470
Pastor David Stevens
Sunday Worship..... 11:00 a.m.

Maple Hill Lutheran
Pastor David Stevens
Leader 218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)
Worship and Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Motley

Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. E
Motley 56466 218-352-6888
Pastor Jim Johnson
Assistant Pastor Richard Broberg
Sunday Worship..... 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Kids Club 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Youth Group 5:30-7:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran
497 3rd Ave. S, Motley 218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.

St. Michael
1st St. and Birch, Motley 218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. Joe Korf
MASS:
Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday 8:30 a.m.
Saturday 7:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley 218-352-6466
Pastor Greg Ciesluk
www.motleyumc.org
Monday AA meeting..... 8:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship Service..... 9:00 a.m.

Oylen

Oylen Alliance
Cty. Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship..... 11:00 a.m.

Pillager

First Lutheran Church
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
Pastor Hector Merced
Sunday Worship..... 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.

Casino Assembly of God
Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone 218-746-3839
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship..... 7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m.

Trust

Psalm 40:4-5

Pastor Tony Romaine, First Congregational Church UCC, Staples

Psalm 40:4: "Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods."

Do you trust?

Charles Spurgeon once said, "We must not cease to wonder at the great marvels of our God. It would be very difficult to draw a line between holy wonder and real worship; for when the soul is overwhelmed with the majesty of God's glory, though it may not express itself in song, or even utter its voice with bowed head in humble prayer; it silently adores. Our incarnate God is to be worshipped as "the Wonderful." That God should consider us, fallen creatures, and instead of sweeping us away with the besom of destruction, should undertake to be our Redeemer, and to pay our ransom price, is, indeed marvelous!"

God could have made any world, God could have made any being, God could have created a perfect human.... Yet, God made you and me, God chose you

and me; God loves you and me. Truly we are blessed because we have this Advent season to remember, to await, to renew our trust in that One, that Holy, that Wonderful God who came to bless us all by becoming like us all.

So this Advent season, when the world wants you to worship the almighty dollar; when the world wants you to pay attention to the largesse of celebrity; when the world wants you to worship at the feet of your sins. Instead, do the opposite; trust.

For, "Many, Lord my God, are the wonders You have done, the things You planned for us. None can compare with You; were I to speak and tell of Your deeds, they would be too many to declare. (Psalm 40:5:)"

Do you trust?

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Reunion

Samantha Svendsen, left, was able to spend a few days with her mom, Amy, while her ship was docked in Panama last December. It was the only time she was able to see her mom during her journey.



Received award

Samantha Svendsen received the O.A.T. Skjelbred award for 'Best Seamanship' during her 10-and-a-half month time onboard the Norwegian ship Sørlandet. She is pictured with her uncle, John Svendsen (left), the chief mate of the ship; and Captain Sture Erichsen. Samantha said that her uncle, originally from Nisswa, was the person who introduced her to sailing and inspired her to take on this challenge. (Submitted photos)



Lights, action and a lot of singing

Led by music teacher Mary Moen, left, Staples-Motley Elementary School kindergartners provided voice and animation for their songs they sang at the Christmas program held Dec. 14. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Dressed for caroling

At right, Lydia Chenoweth, Emmalee Dobson, Gabe Kroll and Ashton Anderson were appropriately dressed as they led the third grade in singing "Here We Come A-Caroling."

Singing for the audience

Below, first grade students were excited to see the large crowd for their Christmas program.



All dressed up for the Christmas concert

Staples-Motley second grade students were dressed up in style for their Christmas program.

Santa-loving family

Three generations posed for a photo with Santa following the Community Christmas Concert at Motley United Methodist Church Dec. 18. Pictured above with Santa (aka Bob Thorn) are, from left: Valerie Black; her children Andrew and Ashley Black; and her mother, Karen Mudek, all of Staples. Ashley Black participated in the concert, playing her violin as part of an ensemble from the Staples-Motley orchestra. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



Winter truck load increases in state

Winter truck load increases began Dec. 16 on unrestricted highways in the north and north central frost zones, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). Winter truck load increases will begin Dec. 22 on unrestricted highways in the central, metro, south and southeast frost zones.

Vehicles are allowed to operate up to 10 percent over the standard legal maximum loads on unrestricted highways during the winter load increase period. However, trucks must comply with current registration weight laws and not exceed registered gross weight tolerances.

Drivers should check with local agencies before increasing any weights on city, county and township routes. The sign erected on the roadway governs the load limit in effect. A winter weight increase permit is required to take advantage of the 10 percent weight increase on interstate highways only; a permit is not required for state trunk highways.

For questions about over legal weight/size "heavy haul" trucking, call MnDOT's Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations - Oversize/Weight Permits, 651-296-6000 or

email: ofcvopermits.dot@state.mn.us.

For questions about enforcement call the Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety - State Patrol - Commercial Vehicle Enforcement; 651-405-6196 (select option 3).

The start and end dates for winter load increases are based on how weather is affecting roadway strength. These dates are established by monitoring roadway strength as weather conditions change. The end date for winter load increases is variable and drivers should check for updates throughout the year. Vehicle operators are required to check with MnDOT for the exact start and end dates.

All changes are made with a minimum three-day notice.

For the most current information, go to MnDOT's automated 24-hour message center at 800-723-6543 for the U.S. and Canada, or locally at 651-366-5400 for the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. This information is also published on the MnDOT seasonal load limits website at www.dot.state.mn.us/materials/. For updated road condition information, call 511 or visit www.511mn.org.



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We, the editors of this 2016 Area's Best Business Review and Reference Guide, suggest that you call JAPKE DECORATING, CARPET & GIFTS, located at 877 Hwy 10 West in Staples, phone (218) 894-1551, and let them fulfill your flooring needs today!



A Care Center Christmas party

Lakewood Health System Care Center, Staples hosted a Christmas gathering for residents, families and friends, Dec. 16 in the Activities Room. Refreshments were served, including treats from Santa Claus (Tim Rice). Above: Rosie Blessing and her sister, Sue Baker discuss being naughty or nice with Santa while mom, Lillian Kahnke wants her treat from Santa. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)



Christmas spirit

Above, Residents and families enjoyed listening to Christmas music sung by Barb Cline, accompanied by Mike Blessing. At right, Mona Neznik and daughter, Jan Lorentz enjoy their time together.



Senior Citizen's Christmas party

The Staples Senior Citizen's Christmas Party was held Dec. 14, at the Staples Community Center. Above: Everyone joined in singing "Silent Night" led by Mrs. Claus. Santa was also on hand sharing Christmas treats with everyone, followed by the holiday meal. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)



Staples-Motley High School Bell Choir

The Staples-Motley High School Bell Choir, under the direction of Cindy Koopmann, performed at the senior citizen's Christmas party held Dec. 14.



Elf yourself

Mrs. Claus (Becky Hasselberg) and elf (Jude Vrdoljak) drew names for lucky prize winners at the Christmas party.



New association president

Wadena County Sheriff Mike Carr became the Minnesota Sheriffs Association President, sworn in by Judge Sally Ireland Robertson. At left is outgoing MSA President Richard Stanek, Hennepin County Sheriff. (Submitted photo)

Carr named president of sheriff's group

Wadena County Sheriff Michael D. Carr was sworn in as President of the Minnesota Sheriff's Association (MSA) by Seventh Judicial District Judge Sally Ireland Robertson, at their annual winter conference held Dec. 13, at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria. Carr brings over 22 years of experience in law enforcement, including 17 years in the Wadena County Sheriff's Dept. He was elected sheriff in 2006, has many years of professional leadership training and has been on the MSA Executive Board of Directors since 2012. MSA was established in 1885 with the purpose of "to legislate and provide training and education for Sheriffs and staff so they are better prepared to serve and protect the citizens of Minnesota, which includes 87 counties." Carr said he was humbled and honored and looks forward to being the MSA President. "MSA has truly made our sheriff's office and me better because of it. I would like to thank the residents of Wadena County for giving me the opportunity to be their sheriff and because of this we will have a stronger voice not only in our county but in the state," said Carr.

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Erpelding, Miller win at Big Bear, team places third

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

Alex Erpelding and Spencer Miller won individual titles and Eric Lisson placed second to lead the Staples-Motley wrestling team to a third place finish at the Big Bear tournament at Cass Lake-Bena Dec. 16-17.

Coach Dave Anglin said this tournament is one of the toughest in the state, with around 50 ranked wrestlers in the 14 weight classes. “To place third is really something for our program, it took all the kids believing in themselves and willing to work hard,” said Anglin. “Each kid did what he had to do.”

For Erpelding, it was his third straight tournament championship at 182 pounds, but he had to work hard to get it. After three falls and a 9-0 win got him to the championship, Erpelding faced Justin Dravis of Park Rapids. Erpelding found himself on his back for the first time this season, but got out of it and came back for an 8-5 win.

At 113 pounds, Miller had several tough matches but always came out on top. In the semifinals, he earned a 3-2 win over a wrestler who beat him at state last year. In the finals Miller won 4-2.

Lisson had a great run to the finals with two falls and two shutout wins. In the final he dropped a 6-3 decision to Class AA’s fifth ranked wrestler.

Another finisher for the Cardinals was Owen Bjerga, who made it through one of the toughest brackets at 126 pounds. “He wrestled great against a lot of tough opponents,” said Anglin. In the third round Bjerga stayed right with a returning state champion, but ended up falling 8-6. He lost to another ranked wrestler later on but came back to win the fifth place match 9-3.

As a team, the Cardinals were in 11th place after the first day of competition, but several wrestlers went on a tear on that second day.

Two of the biggest winners were Braden Tyrrell at 195 pounds and Kyle

Serich at heavyweight. Tyrrell lost his opening match in the tournament but reeled off four straight wins before a 6-4 loss dropped him to the seventh place match, which he then won with a pin. Serich also had to battle back through the lower bracket after losing in the second round. He wrestled to five straight wins, including three pins, before falling in the third place match.

Coach Anglin said the rest of the team also wrestled up to their ability. “I couldn’t be more proud of their accomplishment,” said Anglin. “The kids set goals and they are working hard to meet them. They are starting to see what they are capable of doing.”

The Cardinals finished one point ahead of section rival West Central Area, setting up a big home match between the two on Friday, Dec. 30, at 10 a.m. “It will be interesting,” said Anglin.

Team results
Big Bear Tournament
Hutchinson 209.5, Thief River Falls 161.5, Staples-

Motley 142.5, West Central Area 141.5, Bertha-Hewitt/Verndale/Parkers Prairie 139.5, Blackduck/Cass Lake-Bena 134, Park Rapids 125, Belgrade-Broten-Elrosa 112.5, Mounds View 112, Hibbing 111, Barnesville 107, Detroit Lakes 101, Badger-Greenbush-Middle River 96.5, Deer River 83.5, Fosston-Bagley 80, United North Central 79.5, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton 76.5, St. Cloud Apollo 75, Osakis 72, Roseau 72, Bemidji 70, Mora 66.5, Sauk Centre-Melrose 63, Aitkin 61.5, Andover 54.5, Pequot Lakes/Pine River-Backus 54, Crookston 38, MAHACA 34, Wadena-Deer Creek 32.5, Walker-Hackensack-Akeley/Nevis 27, Crosby-Ironton 25, United Clay-Becker 25, Nash-Kee-Greenway 24, 23, Fertile-Beltrami 17, Fergus Falls 12, Spectrum 7, Red Lake County Central 6, Mahnomen-Waubun 5

Staples-Motley results:
- 103 Sam Jennissen 0-2; 113 Spencer Miller 5-0, 1st place; 120 Owen Bjerga 5-2, 5th place; 132 Eric Lisson 4-1, 2nd place; 138 Matt Miller 1-2; 145 Cade Schmidt 0-2; 152 Jonathan Lisson 0-2; 160 Isaac Swensrud 1-2; 170 Brandon Szymkowiak 0-2; 182 Alex Erpelding 5-0, 1st place; 195 Braden Tyrrell 5-2, 7th place; 220 - Shaine Guggenberger 1-2; 285 Kyle Serich 6-2, 4th place



Fast break basket

Amber Robben beats the Pillager defense down the floor for a basket. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Cardinals take lead early in win



The Staples-Motley girls basketball team kept a comfortable lead for most of the game in a 77-60 win over Pillager on Dec. 13, improving their record to 4-1.

Claire Wolhowe led the team with 23 points, while Kelsie Wiete scored 18. Ashley Smith and Sam Schimpp scored 10 each. Other scorers were Chelsea Nanik 6, Kearra Mikel 6, Amber Robben 2 and Kiera Dumpproope 2.

The Cardinals’ Dec. 19 game against Holdingford was postponed.

Spin move

Left, Jenna Trantina looks for an outlet after getting a rebound.



Wrestling team brings home Big Bear hardware

The third place team at the 39-team Big Bear Tournament at Cass Lake-Bena, standing from left, Kyle Serich, Cade Schmidt, Blake Gerard, Matt Miller, Eric Lisson, Alex Erpelding and Brandon Szymkowiak; kneeling, Sam Jennissen, Spencer Miller and Owen Bjerga; seated, team managers Brittney Lisson, Shelby Brusewitz and Taylor Heldman. Not pictured, Jonathan Lisson, Isaac Swensrud, Braden Tyrrell and Shaine Guggenberger. (Submitted photo)

A fishing misadventure

By Ray Gildow

Looking over the 15 inches of new snow in our yard, it’s time to reflect on last summer and a real fishing misadventure.

It was a beautiful cool July morning on Leech Lake with a slight southeasterly breeze. A perfect morning for catching a few walleye. I was fishing with two of my favorite people; my son-in-law Mitch and grandson Mitchell.

We pulled up to a reef where I’d been catching some real nice fish and started back trolling along a drop off into 22 feet of water. This was a special day for me as it was one of the few days in the summer that I took my “elite” fishing gear. This is gear I never take with customers because it just might get stepped on and I never want to take that gamble with my favorite rod and reel. After all, this rig is expensive. How expensive? Let’s just say both my grandfathers would roll over in their graves if they knew what I paid for it. The best part of this rig is the sensitivity. This rod could feel a minnow burp. It could actually feel stuff coming out the other end of a minnow too. That’s sensitive.

We weren’t fishing five minutes when my son-in-law, hooked a nice walleye. I needed to grab the net so I reeled my line in, laid my rod down at the back of the boat and grabbed



How about this one, Ray?

Chris Etzler of Staples True Value offers a less expensive replacement rod and reel. (Submitted photo)

and netted an 18-inch walleye. Just as I finished, I turned around to see my rod handle going over the back of the boat. I lunged backward and just missed the handle. My line was just long enough to get wrapped in the trolling motor. I quickly shut the motor off, reached down to grab the line, but it was all gone except for about 18 inches. My “elite” rod and reel were gone, in 20 feet of water. My heart sank, my wallet felt lighter.

We marked the spot on my GPS and went back to the cabin to get an underwater camera. We hooked up a big treble hook on another one of my trolling rods and went back to the exact spot and started trolling for my rig. We weren’t trolling four minutes when my son-in-law, hooked on

to something. “Bang”, my trolling rod snapped in half. It got caught in some rocks. Now I’m down two rods and one reel. We searched for forty-five minutes with no luck. We finally gave up. Somehow that rod just disappeared. It wasn’t just that I lost an “elite” rod but I also lost an “elite reel” that is no longer in production.

That was the first rod and reel I’ve ever lost in a boat. I hope it never happens again. My lesson learned, slow down, reel in the line and then get the net. No walleye is worth throwing away an “elite” rod and reel. As my Grandfather Gildow always said, “Only spend money on equipment you can afford to lose.” He would be laughing now, but I didn’t find it too amusing.



Hoops team outscored in two games

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team suffered two losses in a row, 76-53 against Breckenridge on Dec. 13 and 74-43 against Bemidji on Dec. 17.

The Cardinals fell to 1-3 on the year.

Against Breckenridge, Mason Rychner led the team with 15 points. Max Giza and Josh Lombard added 11 each and Jack Fietek had five points. Gavin Smith scored three points but also had eight assists and five steals. Giza led the team with 10 rebounds.

No stats were provided for the Bemidji game.

Thursday Twilight League Bowling Wadena Lanes			
DECEMBER 15, 2016			
1. Mason Bros.	14-6		
2. Spectrum Marketing	14-6		
3. Ted and Gen's	12-8		
4. Staples Vet Clinic	8.5-11.5		
5. Lefty's	6.5-13.5		
6. Ghost Team	5-15		
HIGH TEAM SERIES-			
Staples Vet. Clinic	1721		
HIGH TEAM GAME-			
Staples Vet. Clinic	625		
HIGH IND. SERIES/ HIGH GAMES			
Ruth Lugert	600	220-202-178	
Tia Freitag	559	221-187	
Marge Harrison	552	201-176-175	
Judy Tiede	481	182	
Deb Pundt	480	162-162	
Jackie Perius	451	155-151	
Shirley Wegscheid	430	159-159	



Efficient offense

Above, Claire Wolhowe leans in for a basket; below, Sam Schimpp runs the offense. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





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Preserve or develop? An inescapable question

Recently the U.S. Forest Service denied renewal of leases for further copper-nickel exploration and mining in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW) in northern Minnesota. This means that unless the denial is successfully appealed, or somehow overturned, Twin Metals Minnesota part of a mining conglomerate based in Chile in South America will not be able to develop a copper-nickel mine in an area adjacent to this wilderness area.

The mineral leases were granted decades ago, prior to federal passage of the



Mike Rahn

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Act in 1978. The leases that were just now denied officially expired in 2013. In other, less environmentally-sensitive areas, such leases are regularly renewed and Twin Metals expected that these would be, too.

The decision to deny, and basically halt the proposed copper-nickel mining project, was based on the fact that the mining would take place on lands that drain directly into rivers and lakes in the BWCAW, and Voyageurs National Park within it. The most dangerous consequence foreseen was the release of acids and toxic heavy metals into the waters of the BWCA, where their effects on fish and other aquatic life were feared to be potentially devastating. A history of water and soil pollution in the aftermath of coal mining in the East, and gold and silver mining in the West, has provided reason to worry about similar consequences in the BWCAW, where an estimated 150,000 canoeists, anglers, campers, hikers, researchers and others visit each year.

There's an alternative point of view, of course and not just the direct

profit motive held by Twin Metals. Mines mean jobs, and the arrowhead-shaped Northeast corner of Minnesota has been home to mining for a century; iron mining, chiefly. However, as environment altering as iron mining is, witness the great open pits of the Mesabi Range, for instance it's not considered to be as potentially deadly in terms of toxic materials released into the environment.

The jobs that it now appears will not be created in the Ely area would have been good-paying jobs, jobs that would have employed local people. Communities like Ely are themselves conflicted over resource developments like mining. Many businesses there now cater to "outsiders" who come to Ely for its wilderness character, outsiders who take lodging, buy gas and food, rent canoes, buy locally-made goods, etc. These businesses sell to locals, too, but would certainly see a drop in business if tourists seeking a wilderness experience went elsewhere.

The mayor of Ely, disappointed that a Twin Metals copper-nickel mine might never be sited there, legitimately asked where man-

ufacturers are supposed to get the copper used in computers and personal phones, to name just two uses. Minnesota is believed by some to hold the largest deposits of copper-nickel ore in the "lower 48" states of the U.S.

It's not that mining advocates, like Ely's mayor, are necessarily willing to accept inevitable pollution. Some firmly believe that the pollution and environmental degradation might not happen or could be prevented. That's where words like "possible" and "probable" and "maybe" enter the picture and the uncertainty often leads to frustration and accusations.

Resource development dilemmas like this one are not unique to Minnesota. Land use options will always be encountered in undeveloped places. It's not just precious metals mining, but energy development, logging, agriculture, power generating and commercial and residential development, that compete with preserving lands for scenic, recreational and scientific values.

It's hard to defend all land preservation, at all costs, and at every turn.

The iron mined in Minnesota made a major contribution to winning World War II and producing such everyday conveniences as automobiles and refrigerators. The granite from Central Minnesota quarries is found on important buildings not only in Minnesota, but across the nation. Timber from Minnesota forests has found its way into who knows how many homes and commercial buildings, and certainly many millions of printed books, periodicals and newspapers.

What natural resources do we develop and use? What resources do we decide to leave untouched out of reverence for other values that might be harmed by human activities and development? The Forest Service decision to oppose copper-nickel mining on the very doorstep of one of the most unique wilderness areas in the U.S. is an understandable one, many believe.

There are other choices to be made that may not be so clear cut. For instance, do we allow conversion of Minnesota forest land to potato production in order to produce French fries and tater tots instead of timber and wildlife? Do we

oppose draining shallow wetlands where ducks and redwing blackbirds nest, to instead grow more corn or soybeans? Do we allow motorized recreational vehicles on lands that have value as wildlife habitat, knowing that to do so favors recreation at the expense of wildlife?

Resource use questions will also be faced by the Trump administration's incoming Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture. The U.S. Forest Service, which denied the Minnesota copper-nickel mining permits, is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture and oversees other national wilderness areas. The Interior Department oversees the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. President-elect Trump's nominee for Interior Secretary, a congressman from Montana, is reported to favor greater natural resource development on federal lands, yet favors retaining those lands under federal ownership and available for public use. Will leaders strike a reasonable balance?

Many difficult resource use decisions lie ahead, and probably always will.

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DNR issues early ice warnings, guidelines for ice thickness

With ice forming on Minnesota lakes, outdoor enthusiasts may be tempted to get out before ice is thick enough to support foot traffic. The Department of Natural Resources conservation officers have a message – stay off the ice until at least 4 inches of new, clear ice is present.

"Each year we see people going out on the ice before giving it enough time for a solid freeze. People unexpectedly fall through and sadly lives have been lost because it was just too soon

to be out on the ice," said regional enforcement manager Capt. Cory Palmer. "While no ice is 100 percent safe, we recommend following the DNR ice thickness guidelines before heading out."

"On average, 3 to 4 people have died each winter season on Minnesota water over the past decade," cautions Lisa Dugan, DNR boat and water safety outreach coordinator. "Most of those deaths occurred with someone operating a snowmobile or ATV on the ice.

The DNR offers the following guidelines for new clear ice:

- 4 inches for ice fishing or other activities on foot.
- 5 inches for snowmobile or ATV.
- 8-12 inches for car or small pickup.
- 12-15 inches for medium truck.

Ice thickness may vary greatly across a single body of water, making it important to check the ice conditions before heading out.

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*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE
TODD COUNTY
PLANNING
COMMISSION
215 1st Ave South,
Suite 103
Long Prairie,
Minnesota 56347
Phone 320-732-4420**

Notice is hereby given that on **Thursday, January 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** the Todd County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Commissioners Meeting Room, 215 First Ave. South, Long Prairie to consider the following applications.

1) Land Use Ordinance Proposed Changes:

Changes to several areas of the Todd County Land Use Ordinance to aid in clarification of terms and uses of land will be presented and discussed with opportunity for public input. The full detailed suggested changes can be viewed online on the county web site under Planning and Zoning

2) Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair:

Elect the Chair and Vice Chair of the Todd County Planning Commission

3) Review Business Rules

A review of the January 2015 Business Rules

All persons interested are invited to attend said hearing and be heard on these matters.

Todd County Planning Commission
Michael Wiener,
Acting Chairperson
51pnc

**NOTICE
COUNTY PRINTING
TODD COUNTY,
MINNESOTA**

**Designation
of Extra Printing**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Todd County, Minnesota will receive sealed bids for the extra publication of the Financial Statement for the year 2016 as required by law until 4:00 p.m., Friday, December 30, 2016. Bids will be open at 9:05 a.m. on January 3, 2017 in the County Board Room.

This requires the extra publication for distribution of the Financial Statement to the remaining parts of the county not covered by the distribution of the official paper. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in such an amount as may be determined by the County Board. The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its judgment of the public interest so require pursuant to M.S. 279.07, and it waives any informalities therein.

Denise Gaida
Todd County Auditor/
Treasurer
50-51pnc

**FILING NOTICE
BARLETT TOWNSHIP**

Filing for one (1) Supervisor, 3-year term position and one (1) Treasurer, 2-year term position. Filing dates are January 3, 2017 through January 17, 2017 with the Clerk, Jan Jares, phone 218-640-3176. May file at the Clerk's home, 47810 193rd Ave., Aldrich, MN, from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. on January 17, 2017. There is a \$2 filing fee due at time of filing.

Jan Jares, Clerk
51-52pnc

**NOTICE
POPLAR TOWNSHIP
AUDIT MEETING**

Poplar Township Board will hold the Audit of Finances at the Jan. 3, 2017 meeting at the Leader Hall at 6 p.m. All meetings open to the public.

Hope Johnson, Clerk
51pnc

**FILING NOTICE
MORAN TOWNSHIP**

Notice is hereby given to the residents of Moran Township that filing for township offices will open on January 3 2017, and close on January 17, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. The offices that may be filed for are: One (1) supervisor for a 3-year term, and one (1) Treasurer for a 2-year term.

Candidates may file at the clerk's office: 28316 410th St. Browerville, MN.

Teresa Wagner, Clerk
51-52pnc

**NOTICE
OF FILING FOR
STAPLES TOWNSHIP**

Staples Township is accepting filings for:

Supervisor for a three (3) year term

Treasurer for a two (2) year term

The filing period for these offices opens at the home of the Clerk on January 3, 2017 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on January 17, 2017. Filing fee is \$2.00.

Please contact Bonnie Thoele at 218-894-3638 to file for office.

Bonnie Thoele, Clerk
Staples Township
50-51pnc

**NOTICE
COUNTY PRINTING
TODD COUNTY,
MINNESOTA**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Todd County, will receive sealed bids until 4:00 p.m. Friday, December 30, 2016 at the County Auditor-Treasurer's Office. Bids will be opened at the County Board meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 9:05 a.m. in the County Board Room, for publication for the year 2017 as may be required by the County of Todd, a municipal corporation, as follows:

**Designation of the
Official Newspaper**

This requires the publishing of official proceedings by the Todd County Board, and other legal and public notices required by all Todd County Departments, publication of the financial statement and publication of the list of lands in Todd County, delinquent in taxes for the year 2016, which have not been attached to prior judgment.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in such an amount as may be determined by the County Board. The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its judgment of the public interest so require pursuant to M.S. 279.07, and to waive any informalities therein.

Denise Gaida
Todd County Auditor/
Treasurer
50-51pnc

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC
SALE BY SEALED
BID/PUBLIC AUCTION**

The County of Todd, a political subdivision organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota will be accepting sealed bids until January 10, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the Todd County Commissioner's Room, 215 1st Ave. S., Suite 300, Long Prairie, MN, for the purchase and sale of the land and buildings at Co. Rd. 56, Long Prairie, MN 56347. This parcel has been used as a Sheriff's Impound Lot, Veteran's Service Garage and Sentence to Serve Wood Sale lot. The parcel will be sold "AS IS" with no warranty whatsoever. Additionally there is no warranty on boundaries or legal descriptions.

All bidders will complete, sign and submit a Purchase Agreement together with earnest money of \$10,000 in the form a cashier's check payable to Todd County. After opening of the sealed bids on January 10, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., any bona-fide bidder may raise their bid as in public auction until such time as a successful bidder is determined. The minimum bid which the Seller will consider is \$277,185 plus any and all expenses incurred by the county in selling the real estate. The successful bidder will also reimburse the county for attorney's fees incurred by the county up to a maximum of \$3,000.

The successful bidder will be required to complete the closing with full payment and possession in accordance with the terms of the purchase agreement. Todd County will issue a Quit Claim Deed as set forth in the Purchase Agreement. The Purchase Agreement and bidding instructions may be obtained from the following:

Sellnow Law Office
229 Central Avenue
Long Prairie, MN 56347
-or-
Todd County Website
www.co.todd.mn.us

Todd County reserves the right to reject in whole or in part any bid deemed to be insufficient, to accept a bid which, in the sole judgment of Todd County, best serves the interest of Todd County and to waive any and all technicalities.

Sealed bids shall be clearly marked "BID FOR PARCEL NOS. 36-4013300 AND 36-4014300", and submitted to Denise Gaida at the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer's Office, 215 1st Ave. S., Suite 201, Long Prairie, MN 56347 or Sellnow Law Office, 229 Central Avenue, Long Prairie, MN 56347 on or before January 10, 2017 or presented on the date the bids are open.

The parcels are located at Co. Rd. 56 in the City of Long Prairie. The legal description is as follows:

That part of the Southwest Quarter, Section 17, Township 129 North, Range 33 West, Todd County, Minnesota, described as follows:

Commencing at the northwest corner of Lot 2, Block One, BURLINGTON ADDITION, according to the recorded plat thereof;

thence on a record bearing of North 74 degrees, 50 minutes 00 seconds West

along the northwesterly extension of the northerly line of said Lot 2 a distance of 427.32 feet to the point of beginning of the land to be described;

thence South 18 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds West 225.15 feet;

thence North 71 degrees 09 minutes 34 seconds West 271.31 feet to the easterly right of way line of County Road No. 56;

thence North 25 degrees 37 minutes 38 seconds East along said easterly right of way line 224.53 feet;

thence South 71 degrees 40 minutes 30 seconds East 242.60 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing 1.32 acres more or less
AND

That part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, Section 17, Township 129 North, Range 33 West, Todd County, Minnesota, described as follows:

Commencing at the northwest corner of Lot 2, Block One, BURLINGTON ADDITION, according to the recorded plat thereof;

thence on a record bearing of North 74 degrees 50 minutes 00 seconds West along the extension of the northerly line of said Lot 2 a distance of 427.32 feet;

thence South 18 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds West 225.15 feet to the point of beginning of the land to be described;

thence North 71 degrees 09 minutes 34 seconds West 271.31 feet to the easterly right-of-way line of County Road No. 56;

thence South 25 degrees 37 minutes 38 seconds West along said right-of-way line 115.91 feet;

thence South 72 degrees 35 minutes 31 seconds East 286.15 feet;

thence North 18 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds East 107.95 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing 0.71 acre more or less.

Rod Erickson
Todd County Commissioner
Chairperson
50-52pnc

**NOTICE
TO THE
RESIDENTS OF
MOTLEY TOWNSHIP**

Affidavits of candidacy may be filed by appointment at the home of the clerk beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2017 and ending on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. for the following offices: one (1) supervisor for a 3-year term, one (1) treasurer for a 2-year term and a special election for supervisor to fill a vacancy in the term expiring March 12, 2019. Filing fee is \$2.00. Call the clerk at 218-821-0746 to set up an appointment.

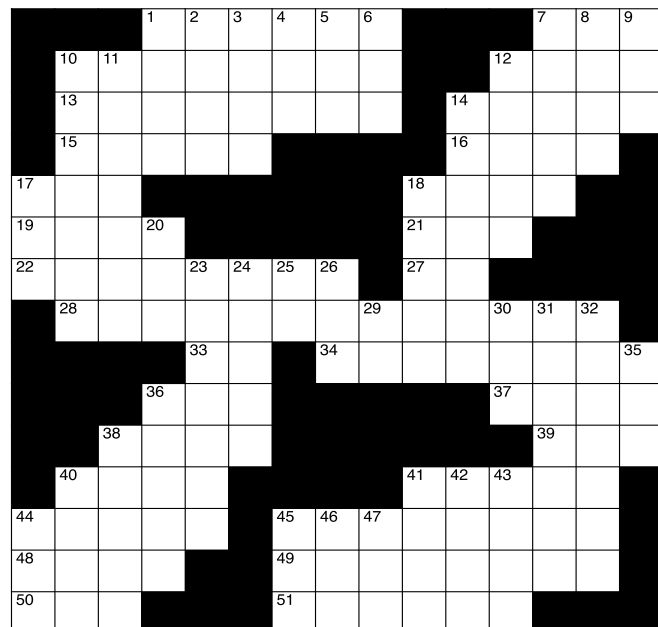
Robin Johnson, Clerk
Motley Township
50-51pnc

**NOTICE
POPLAR TOWNSHIP
CLERK**

Anyone interested in the appointed position of Clerk for Poplar Township contact Hope Johnson, 218-397-2368. Do not need to live in Poplar Township.

Hope Johnson, Clerk
51pnc

Crossword Puzzle



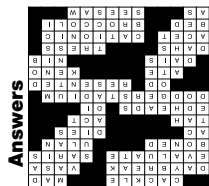
CLUES ACROSS

1. Give a raucous cry
7. Mentally ill
10. Natural electrical phenomenon
12. Vessels
13. Judge the worth of something
14. South Asian garments
15. Studied intensively
16. District in Kazakhstan
17. Beloved meal ___ and cheese
18. Ceases to live
19. Home to BYU
21. What thespians do
22. Julianne Moore and Christina Hendricks are two
27. Double in chemistry
28. Clayton Kershaw plays here
33. Overdose
34. Begrudged

36. Consumed
37. A game of chance
38. A low platform
39. Shelled and crushed coffee bean
40. Dashes
41. Long lock of a woman's hair
44. Indicates silence in music
45. Positively charged
48. In bed
49. Cruciferous vegetable
50. Fuel
51. Kids' ride

CLUES DOWN

1. Greenish-blue
2. Having sufficient skill, knowledge, etc.
3. Dirt
4. New Zealand mountain parrot
5. Back muscle
6. Supplement with difficulty
7. Kate and Rooney
8. How Amazon identifies its products (abbr.)
9. Emirati island
10. Contended
11. Pear-shaped fruit



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