



Looking forward to summer



With temperatures nearing 20 degrees below zero Jan. 5, it was a rough day for anyone working outside. Pictured above and at left, Brian Bates, Staples postal worker, delivers mail near Pleasant Ave. and 3rd St. NE in Staples. Wearing layers is key, Bates said of being outside for hours in sub-zero temperatures. He wears shoes inside his well-insulated boots, which keeps his feet warm; but "there's nothing you can really do about your hands...they're always cold," Bates said, noting that he has to take his gloves off to scan packages and sort mail. Strong winds make his work more difficult as well, Bates went on. "I just take it one day at a time and wait for summer," he said with a smile. The most difficult part of delivering mail during the winter? "When people

School board changes meeting date, location

By Brenda Halvorson
General Manager

On a split vote the Staples-Motley School Board changed their meeting dates and location as well as some of their committee structure at their organizational meeting Jan. 3.

Following the oath of office for board members Bryan Winkels, Chad Longbella and Greg Frisk, who were elected Nov. 8, the board chose Mary Freeman to remain as board chair.

Bruce Lund was elected as vice chair, Dave Hoemberg as clerk and Chad Longbella as treasurer.

The regular board meetings will be the second to last Monday of each month. Freeman noted that in most cases this will be the third Monday of the month, as the board has set in the past. However, on those months with five Mondays, it will allow the business office more time to prepare financial reports for the board.

She also noted that some months it may solve the issue of needing to change the meetings to Tuesdays because of Monday holidays.

This month is one example of that. Previously, the board would have been

scheduled to meet Jan. 16, the third Monday, which is also Martin Luther King Day. That meeting would have been changed to Tuesday, because January has five Mondays, the regular board meeting will be Jan. 23.

The same motion included the stipulation that all meetings will now be held in the district office building in Staples.

At the time of the consolidation between the Staples and Motley School Districts for the 1994-95 school year, the combined school board set the monthly meetings to alternate between Staples and Motley.

Two reasons were given for suggesting the change. One was that any additional documentation needed for the meetings would be more easily accessible. The second was to avoid confusion for the public as to where the meeting was going to be. More than one board member confessed to going to the wrong location and being late for a meeting when he had to travel to the other town.

New board member Greg Frisk objected to that part of the motion.

"It's a matter of percep-

tion. I was not elected as a Motley representative. I try to make that clear that I represent the district as a whole. I understand the logistics, but it's a bad idea and I would vote against it," Frisk said.

Winkels echoed the point about feeling he represents the entire district. He said it might not be very popular with the public but it would be good for the people to know where the meetings were.

Superintendent Mary Klamm pointed out that for most school districts, including the consolidated districts, the board meetings were in the district office.

A third part of the motion was to set board work sessions for the first Monday of each month.

As the board was discussing committee assignments, Frisk questioned if the committees were worth the time when their recommendations needed to be acted upon by the entire board eventually.

Klamm noted that for her the committees served as a sounding board for ideas. By hearing questions from committee members she could be better prepared for the full board meetings.

See **SCHOOL** on page 3a

Todd County coordinator contract postponed

By Karin Nauber
Todd County reporter

After some discussion at their Jan. 3 meeting, the Todd County Commissioners tabled the hiring of Joseph Hatch as county coordinator until their Jan. 17 meeting.

Commissioner David Kircher had asked if they were doing a contract and what the length of the contract would be.

Commissioner Rod Erickson said it was not

set, but they had been talking about a three year contract with the first year being probationary.

Kircher said he was nervous about getting into a three year contract.

Human Resources Karla Nalezny said that there was a stipulation that either party could end the agreement of employment with a 30 day notice.

Commissioner Barb Becker said that she would like to see a shorter contract as they had only seen him twice. She added that Hatch had indicated he would need 30 days before coming to the county.

Kircher said that if they had to terminate Hatch within the one year probation period, it should be immediate because 30 days would give time to sabotage things in the county.

Commissioner Randy

Neumann said that he agreed with Kircher and if they terminated him during probation because it was not working out, that termination would be immediate.

Auditor/Treasurer Denise Gaida suggested the board wait until the Jan. 17 meeting until the contract is all drafted and drawn up.

Kircher said they needed to make sure all their t's were crossed and i's dotted.

"The last one we hired and two days later she gave her notice," said Kircher.

Bike MS: TRAM 2017
After a presentation made by Luan Brunkhorst, the Long Prairie Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, the board approved hosting the Bike MS Tram (The Ride

Across Minnesota) group at the Todd County Fairgrounds at no cost for an overnight use. The 277 mile bicycle ride begins in Alexandria with stops in Long Prairie on July 19, Wadena, Fergus Falls and then back to Alexandria.

The event is a fund raising effort for multiple sclerosis research and support.

Between 600 and 700 cyclists will head for Long Prairie following check-in on July 19. They will have a

refreshment stop in Clotho at the United Methodist Church.

There were some questions raised as to whether the grounds will be ready on July 19 as the Todd County Fair takes place just days prior. However, according to Commissioner Gary Kneisl, the cleanup usually takes place the Monday and Tuesday following the fair so by Wednesday, July 19 it should be ready for use.

Brunkhorst also asked if a couple of buildings could be open for shade if it is a hot day.

Gaida said that last year when the group stopped in Browerville it was amazing.

Neumann commented that a few years back, Osakis had hosted them and his church had made tons of spaghetti for the

See **TODD COUNTY** on page 2a

Hello, Readers,

On Jan. 14, 1993, Ann Bancroft of St. Paul reached the South Pole by skis, becoming the first woman to travel overland to both the North and South Poles. She led the American Women's Expedition on a sixty-seven-day trek during which the four women cover 660 miles on skis. Additionally, in 2001 Ann Bancroft and Liv Arneson would become the first women to ski across Antarctica.

Where in the World?

Buses for sale by bid at CLC: **8A**

Obituaries

Dawn Beers
Joel Eggert
Carol Peterson

Thank you for subscribing!

Hillukka and Monson to lead Wadena Board

By Rin Porter
Wadena County reporter

The first meeting of 2017, held Jan. 3, Commissioner Dave Hillukka was elected chair of the Wadena County Board. Commissioner Sheldon Monson was elected vice-chair. Both elections were by unanimous vote with no opposition. This is Hillukka's second time as chair, and Monson's first time as vice-chair.

Before the board meeting, Jim Hofer and Chuck Horsager were sworn in as county commissioners by Judge Sally Robertson. Hofer was re-elected to a second term in November, and Horsager was elected to a first term. Horsager is filling the seat previously held by Rodney Bounds.

Also sworn in was Lee Brekke, who was re-appointed by the board to serve as County Assessor.

Chair Hillukka will prepare a list of suggested committee assignments for the commissioners and present it at a future board meeting. Each commissioner serves on at least 10

committees, organization boards, advisory committees, executive committees, etc., for local, regional, and state groups.

In other business, the board

- Approved two low income septic replacement grants, one for a homeowner in Sec. 3 of Leaf River Township, and one for a homeowner in Sec. 17 of Wadena Township.
- Agreed to approve a change in benefits payroll deductions. Effective soon, employees will have their benefit deductions taken from their first and second monthly paychecks equally, rather than having all deductions taken from the first paycheck.
- Learned that the consultant who conducted the county's Environmental Scan with employees will come to the Jan. 10 meeting to report the results.
- Approved the remodeling estimate from Vercon for work to be done in the Social Services building, including replacing a set of stairs and remodeling a basement restroom.



Fire and ice

The home of Leona Blonigan was severely damaged by a fire on Jan. 9. The home is on Portage Loop, 10 miles south of Staples near Sylvan Shores. Staples and Motley fire departments responded and battled the fire for three hours, through snow and cold and wind. Staples Fire Chief Scott Braith said the fire started in the attached garage and spread to the attic of the home. Blonigan, her daughter and a grandchild were at the home at the time and heard the fire crackling in the garage around 3 p.m. They escaped unharmed. Below, Staples and Motley firefighters work together to provide support for firefighters inside the burning home. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





Minor injuries in car-bus accident

A bus-car accident occurred at the intersection of Warner Road and 8th Street NE in Staples on Jan. 9, around 9:20 a.m. The bus driver, Robert Erickson, 67, told police he did not see the car when he pulled into the intersection. The car driven by Tiffany Brandt, 31, of Staples, was traveling east on Warner Road and did not have a stop sign. The car hit the right side of the bus. Brandt and a child in the car were transported by ambulance to Lakewood Health System Hospital with minor injuries. There were no students on the bus and Erickson was uninjured. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Rollover on Highway 10

Multiple accidents were reported on Jan. 9, including this rollover east of Staples on Highway 10. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

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You may be familiar with the terms "tone deaf" or "congenital amusia," which refer to the inability to accurately perceive differences of musical pitch. Tone deafness is estimated to affect about 4% of the population and is the reason why some people find it difficult (if not impossible) to carry a tune. As it turns out, tone-deaf individuals may also find it difficult to accurately read facial expressions or detect a false laugh. If so, these limitations can adversely impact their social skills. According to a recent small study involving 24 people, the 13 "amusics" in the group found it more difficult to accurately identify the emotions (sadness, anger, etc.) in human vocalizations, as well as the facial expressions.

Gradual hearing loss can affect people of all ages -- varying from mild to profound. Hearing loss is a sudden or gradual decrease in how well you can hear. Depending on the cause, it can be mild or severe, temporary or permanent. To schedule a hearing assessment, please call

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Staples World



Baby, it's cold outside

Margaret Ktytor of Staples sipped on a cup of hot coffee while posing for a photo beneath the Mid-Central Federal Savings Bank sign that read minus 27 degrees the morning of Jan. 6. Ktytor works across the street at the Clark Station. "I got there at 4:45 a.m. this morning," she said, noting that it felt even colder at that time. "I didn't check to see what the temperature was, I was just glad my car started," she said. "I just hope my husband doesn't want to go ice fishing later," she added. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)


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An appointment is not necessary. Sign in and immediately receive treatment. Health Awareness Clinics is a non-profit organization. They rely on donations to make treatment available. A modest \$5.00 donation when signing in is appreciated. Support materials available. Only one 2 hour session is needed for desirable results. Sign in 20 min. early

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7:00pm
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(512) 433-6200

TODD COUNTY continued from page 1a

Rod Erickson is new board chair

cyclists.

Organizational items

As part of their first regular board meeting of the year, commissioners set their official designations and committee assignments for 2017.

Barbara Becker, District 1; Rodney Erickson, District 3; and Randy Neumann, District 5; took the oath of office as they were re-elected Nov. 8.

Also taking his oath of office as an appointed official was Assessor Chris Odden.

Erickson became the chair following the rotation the board has followed and Neumann became the vice-chair.

The next order of business was setting the appointment to the Todd-Wadena County Corrections Executive Committee and Advisory Board. Kircher and Becker agreed to stay on these committees.

The board next designated the official newspapers as the Staples World, Independent News Herald, Browerville Blade and Long Prairie Leader. The rate was set at \$9.95 per column inch which is divided between the four county newspapers as part of a cooperative agreement. The rate was \$9.75 last year.

Kircher questioned if this was in the budget.

As was stated in the bid letter, the amount had been sent earlier in the year at the request of Auditor/Treasurer Denise Gaida for budgeting purposes.

The extra publication newspaper was also set by the board, again with the four county newspapers. The rate was approved at \$7.80 per column inch which is the same rate as last year.

The board set their 2017 board protocol and their 2017 board meeting dates schedule which continues to be the first and third Tuesday of each month with the following changes noted: the July 4 meeting will be rescheduled to July 5 and the year-end meeting will be on December 28.

The date of the Association of Minnesota Counties conference was discussed as it typically interferes with another December meeting date. The board agreed they would reschedule that meeting, if needed, when the time came.

Neumann asked about the board meetings no longer being recorded.

Gaida said that recordings can be made for the clerk for the purpose of assisting with their writing up the minutes, but would then be null and void after the minutes are written.

She added that the meeting can also be recorded in some instances for county department use only. The recording would not be an official document and only be for county use.

Neumann relayed that MCIT (Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust) was concerned about it not being recorded.

He said that he would be checking with AMC (Association of Minnesota Counties) to see how many of the other 87 counties record their board meetings.

The final designations, the board made for the 2017 committee appointments, were also completed with very few changes. The coordinator - once hired - will also be designated to attend select committee meetings.

According to Gaida, an updated list of the committees will be available on the county website soon. The county website is: www.co.todd.mn.us.

In other business:

• Accepted a grant from Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources that provides low income landowners a septic cost share. The grant will be implemented through the Long Prairie Drinking Water System Management Area.

An inventory of septic system compliance was conducted during 2015-2016 by planning and zoning staff within the critical area of the city of Long Prairie DWSMA. The work identified systems not

meeting SSTS standards.

A follow-up grant was received to cost share replacement SSTS systems within the DWSMA for applicants that meet low income levels as set by USDA.

The grant will provide \$79,054 for system cost share and approximately \$7,000 for staff time to administer the grant.

• At their meeting on Dec. 29, the board approved the additional increase of the sheriff's salary in the amount of \$1,569 for 2017. The board approved the transfer of funds from part-time wages to elected officials salary within the 2017 sheriff's budget.

The \$1,569 was an increase requested by Kircher.

• Approved the hire of Lewis Noska as a wetland conservation officer for the Soil and Water Conservation District Office.

• With Neumann opposed, the board approved the start date of March 1, 2017, for increasing the municipal solid waste tipping fees.

As reported from a previous meeting, the board approved the increase of the per pound Municipal Solid Waste disposal fee from \$0.05 to \$0.07. They also approved the increase of the per ton MSW disposal fee from \$90 to \$94 per ton.

• Approved the 2017 tobacco licenses.

• A Care Coordinator position exists within the Adult/Disability Unit. At the board meeting on Nov. 15, 2016, this position was approved to be filled by either a Registered Nurse or Social Worker.

The board approved the hire of Lisa Thielman, Social Worker, to fill the position contingent upon the successful completion of a required background check and employee physical.

• Approved the hire of two eligibility workers - Jackie Ballou and Michelle Pietz following a successful background check and employee physical.



Todd County Commissioners

The Todd County Commissioners paused for a photo at their organizational meeting Jan. 3. From left are Barb Becker, Randy Neumann, Rod Erickson, Gary Kniesl and David Kircher. Commissioners Becker, Neumann and Erickson had taken the oath of office earlier in the meeting as they were re-elected for another term in the November 2016 election. (Staples World photo by Karin Nauber)

Albrecht nominated to Hall of Leaders

Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union President and CEO Chuck Albrecht has been nominated for induction into the Credit Union House Hall of Leaders.

According to Mark Cummins, President and CEO of the Minnesota Credit Union Network, Albrecht's nomination was unanimously endorsed by the Network Board of Directors who wished to recognize him for his contributions to the credit

union movement.

"Leader is a particularly appropriate description of your credit union career," Cummins said in a letter addressed to Albrecht. "The selection criteria stated that the nominee is to 'have shown commitment that inspires others in the credit union movement.' You have excelled in this area, and your commitment cannot be questioned."

The Credit Union House Hall of Leaders was introduced to provide lasting recognition for credit union leaders whose commitment has made a sig-

nificant impact on the credit union movement at the local, state or national level. Albrecht will be officially recognized and honored at the GAC conference in Washington D.C. late February.

Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union is a member-owned financial cooperative serving central Minnesota. The credit union has full-service offices in Aitkin, Alexandria, Baxter, Brainerd, Crosby, Detroit Lakes, Little Falls, Pequot Lakes, Twin Valley, and Staples; as well as a drive-through branch in Baxter.



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‘I’m Alive’ author to speak at Staples Library

Duke Pieper was on top of his hockey world late in 2008, and headed even higher. As a 15-year-old freshman, he made the varsity starting lineup for the Minnesota high school powerhouse Hill-Murray.

He seemed destined for four years of prep glory and a certain scholarship to one of the premier programs in Division I college hockey. But, before he could take the ice in his first game, persistent headaches and problems with his vision sidelined Pieper.

The diagnosis was shocking - bleeding in his brain from a non-cancerous lesion. He had to have a surgery that gave him a five percent chance to live.

It seemed that all the odds were stacked against him, except one - his deter-

mination.

Over the next two years Pieper endured a half dozen extremely risky surgeries and procedures involving his brain and spine, bouts of paralysis, multiple complications and the temporary loss of his speech. He had to re-learn everything from

- o -
‘He has a wonderful, miracle story and a great message for young people and their parents.’
- o -

Mary Sperley

- o -

meeting separately with the members of The Page Turners, a tween/teen book club, prior to the public presentation.

“He has a wonderful, miracle story and a great message for young people and their parents,” said

walking talking, eating to breathing.

Pieper has written a book about his experiences and will share his story with the public at the Staples Public Library at 6 p.m., Thursday Jan. 19.

He will be meeting separately with the members of The Page Turners, a tween/teen book club, prior to the public presentation.



Meeting Duke Pieper

Mary Sperley met Duke Pieper at his booth at the Little Falls Arts and Crafts Fair last September. She made the connections to arrange for his visit to the Staples Public Library Jan. 19. Following his visit with the tween/teen book club, Pieper will give a public presentation at 6 p.m. (Submitted photo)

Mary Sperley, Staples.

While dining with friends last September at

the Countryside Restaurant in Motley, Sperley struck up a conversation

with another diner. Mark Pieper, Duke’s father, owns Hilltop Sports Center and Landscaping, Cushing, just south of Lincoln on Hwy. 10.

Mark Pieper told Sperley and her friends about his son and gave them copies of his book. Sperley read the book that night and was so impressed, she wanted to meet the author. She and her friends, Bob and Joan Hamann, went to the Arts and Crafts Fair in Little Falls where Duke Pieper had a booth.

“In visiting with him we found he would love to come up to Staples and do a book talk with the teen reading group and then have an opportunity to talk with others after he finishes that group,” Sperley said.

Sperley said the book includes points that can help people of any age work through challenging issues.

Sperley works part time at the Staples Public Library and Cathy Perish, library services coordinator, arranged for the visit. Duke Pieper will sign

copies of his book, “I’m Alive: Courage, Hope and a Miracle,” which will be for sale following his talk.

Pieper has also started a foundation “The Pieper Hope and Courage Foundation,” a non-profit organization formed to benefit anyone facing life’s adversities. He continues to inspire individuals by showing them they can overcome their physical obstacles and emotional challenges and find purpose by staying the course through their recovery and beyond.

Pieper has been enrolled at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, where he studies sports management and entrepreneurship. He’s also been involved in hockey serving as a volunteer student coach with the Falcon hockey team and assisting the coaching staff.

Pieper’s presentation is made possible by a Legacy grant and with the support of the Friends of the Staples Public Library. The library is located at 122 6th St. NE, Staples.

SCHOOL continued from page 1a

Frisk, Longbella oppose location change

Winkels felt the committee structure as a whole was working all right, but noted the some things needed full board discussion, like the budget.

Hoernberg agreed that the full board needed all the information on some of the issues.

Longbella said because of his work schedule there were certain committees he could not join because of when they meet, such as the finance committee.

Lund suggested that work sessions be set for the first Monday of the month,

primarily for finance and facility issues, with the understanding that those sessions would be cancelled if not needed.

After more discussion about which committees would be included for work sessions and which would remain as board assignments, the work session stipulation was added to the motion.

When the vote was taken the motion passed 4-2 with Frisk and Longbella voting against it.

In other business the board:

- Designated the Staples World as the legal and official newspaper.

- Named Pemberton Law Office of Fergus Falls and Kennedy & Graven as the official school district attorneys.

- Named as official depositories First International Bank and Trust, Unity Bank, Mid-Central Federal Savings Bank Minnesota Federal Credit Union and other financial institutions which are in compliance with state statutes governing school district depositories.



Taking oath of office

Three members were elected to the Staples-Motley School Board Nov. 8 and they took their oath of office at the board’s organizational meeting Jan. 3. From left are Bryan Winkels, Greg Frisk and Chad Longbella. Seated is Mary Freeman, board chair. (Staples World photo by Brenda Halvorson)



Aldrich accident on snowy roads

A snowplow passes emergency vehicles at an accident scene on Jan. 10 in Aldrich. According to the Minnesota State Patrol, a car driven by Kaitlynn Swank, 18, of Verndale, hit the back of an SUV driven by Robert Hirschey, 83, of Cushing, after a semi passed both vehicles, reducing visibility. In an unrelated accident, right, a semi slid into the ditch between Staples and Aldrich at the same time. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Depot progress

Contractors work grinding and polishing the lobby floor at Northern Pacific Historical Depot, Staples, part of the restoration and rehabilitation project. At right, Bess McCollough, historic architect with Collaborative Design Group; Jerry Thiessen, project manager for Alliance Building Corp.; and Tom Kajer, Staples Historical Society president, review progress on Depot project. The next steps include installing bathroom fixtures and some wooden doors, as well as painting the new walls and ceiling in the lobby. Access to the lobby will be limited for the next week or so to allow the floor finishing to be completed without foot traffic. (Submitted photos)





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ANNUAL DINNER

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017

5:30 p.m. Social 6:30 p.m. Dinner/ Speaker

Ted & Gen’s, Aldrich

Tickets: \$25 /person

Four meat buffet, tax/gratuity, program, prizes

Guest Speaker

Ray Gildow, Staples

“The Speed of Change”



Change is occurring at warp speed. Organizations that fail to recognize how fast change is occurring are being left behind or becoming obsolete. Today’s new workers are looking at as many as 1517 job changes in their careers. The fastest growing disease in the next 20 years will be - not cancer - but depression. Gildow shares fast moving, interesting changing trends and future predictions.

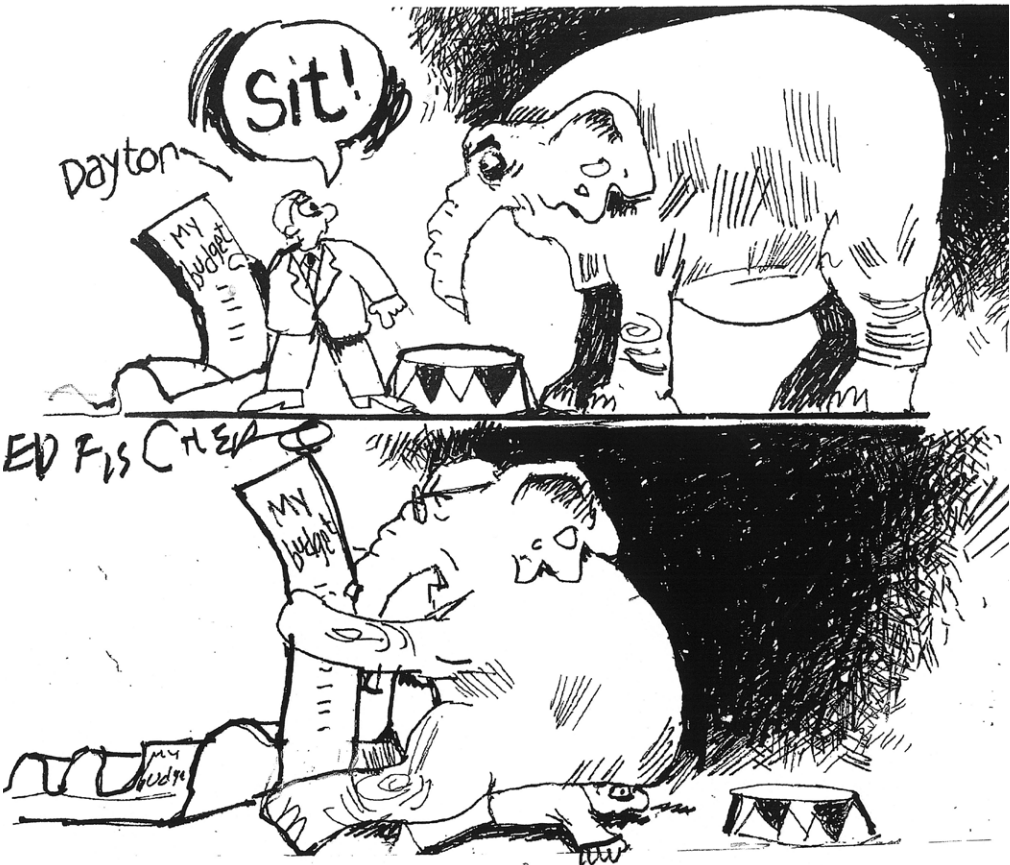
Ray Gildow is a retired vice president of Central Lakes College; full-time fishing guide in the summer; host of the PBS show “Lakeland Currents”; co-host of “Fishing Tips with Mandy Uhrich”; Lakeland Public Television outdoor writer; board member of “Action Outdoors”, a syndicated newspaper column throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin; board member: Staples Motley Community Foundation, Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, Lakeland Public TV.

Call 218-894-3974 or

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to verify attendance and number of people by Friday, January 13.

SSW2C



Early Learning Scholarships bridge the urban-rural divide

By Rep. Ron Kresha, R-Little Falls, and Sen. Melisa Franzen, DFL-Edina

Much has been said and written lately about a rural-urban divide in America. It's increasingly apparent that sound public policy has to help families in communities of every description - urban, suburban, exurban and rural. Minnesota's Early Learning Scholarships is exactly that kind of policy.

Scholarships address an urgent problem that schools and communities are facing in every corner of the state. Nearly half of Minnesota's children are arriving in kindergarten unprepared. Too many kids never catch up and eventually drop out of school. Dropouts earn less and generate higher taxpayer costs throughout their lifetime. That's a huge problem for all of us. Minnesota needs an educated workforce to compete in the global economy. An educated workforce makes for healthy, prosperous communities.

High quality early childcare and early education is the way to get kids ready to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. But for

too many Minnesota kids, these programs are out of reach. Tragically, about 40,000 low-income Minnesota children under five years old are unable to access the quality early learning programs they need to get prepared for school and life.

These at-risk children are in every community in Minnesota. About half of scholarship-eligible low-income children are in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, and half are in Greater Minnesota.

But how can one policy solution work as well in Minneapolis, Mankato and Motley? After all, some Minnesota communities have many different choices available for childcare and early learning programs and others have few to choose from.

With flexible Early Learning Scholarships, parents can choose a high quality early learning program based in a community center, home, church, school or nonprofit organization. It's an approach that fits all different types of communities, regardless of the program choices available. As a result, about 43 percent of scholarships are being used in

the Twin Cities metro area, and 57 percent are going to children in Greater Minnesota. Flexible Scholarships are working for parents all across the state.

Flexible Scholarships accommodate different types of parental needs and wants. It's not a one-size-fits-all solution. Instead, Flexible Scholarships allow parents to select a program that fits their work schedule, location, as well as cultural and personal preferences.

Expanding Early Learning Scholarships to the 40,000 children that can most benefit from early learning is something that all Minnesotans can embrace. Flexible Scholarships won the support of a bipartisan group of legislators and Governor Dayton. A 2015 public opinion survey found that an overwhelming 77 percent of Minnesotans support expanding Flexible Scholarships.

The election revealed divisions in communities across the state. Giving early learning opportunities to our youngest learners is common ground we should seize. Let's pull together - urban, suburban, exurban and rural - to give every Minnesota child a shot at real success. The health and prosperity of every community in Minnesota depends on it.

Ron Kresha is a Republican member of the Minnesota House of Representatives from Little Falls who represents a rural area. He can be reached at 651-296-4247 or 888-727-4612 or rep.ron.kresha@house.mn

Melisa Franzen is a DFL member of the Minnesota Senate from Minnetonka who represents an urban and suburban portion of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. She can be reached at 651-296-6238 or sen.melisa.franzen@senate.mn

In New Year, I'll put Minnesota first

By U.S. Sen Al Franken

In the wake of last year's dramatic and surprising presidential election, there's a lot of uncertainty about what the new year will bring.

Given the political earthquake we experienced in 2016, I'll refrain from making any predictions about what this year's political environment might be like. Instead, I'll make this promise: No matter what the new administration brings, and no matter how divisive Washington may be, I'll always put our state first - and I'll never stop fighting to deliver for Minnesota.

It's no secret I disagreed with pretty much everything Donald Trump said during his campaign and, like many Minnesotans, I found some of his rhetoric downright offensive. But he will be our president. And while we can't yet say what he'll do when he takes office later this month, I can say I'm going to keep doing my job the same way I always have, working to make progress for the people of Minnesota wherever I can.

For example, the president-elect has signaled an interest in working on infrastructure, and while I'm concerned about whether his approach to the issue reflects the best interests of working people (and not merely the profit motives of big corporations), I'm hopeful we may be able to get some important local projects underway.

Health care is another issue of concern as we look ahead to the new administration. I'm prepared to fight back if and when the new president attempts to wipe out the progress we made in the Affordable Care Act to protect people with pre-existing conditions, to slow the growth in health care costs, and to bring the best of Minnesota's own health care innovations to the rest of the country. I'll stand my ground if Republicans try to end the Medicare guarantee or slash Medicaid or take coverage away from millions of people.

But I'm also ready to find common ground with colleagues of both parties on ways to continue improving our health care system.

Believe it or not, that common ground does exist.

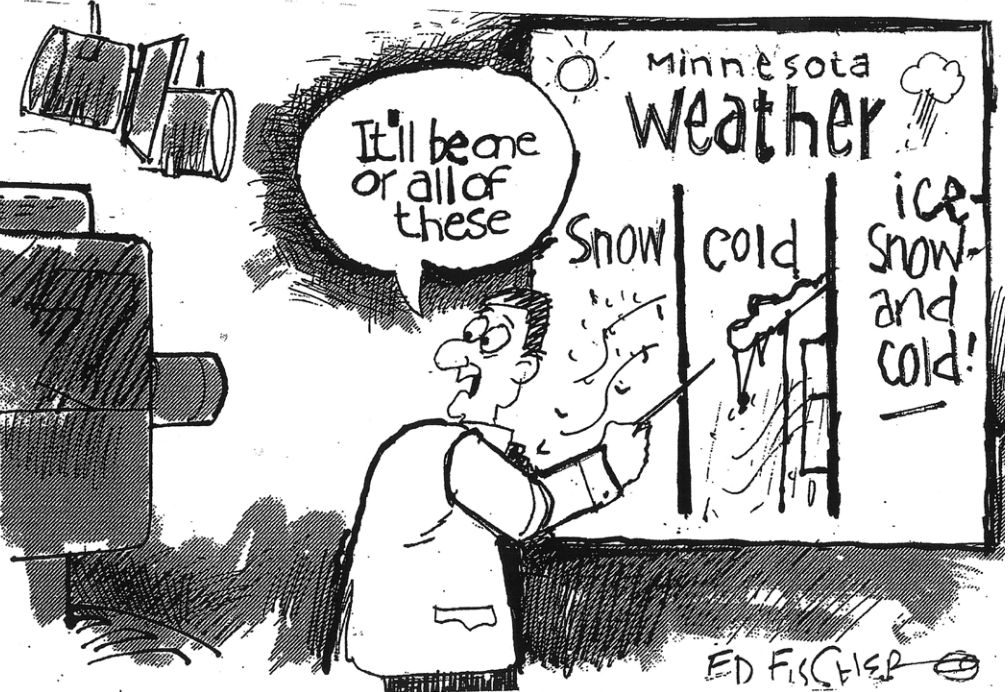
For example, in December, the 21st Century Cures Act - a bipartisan compromise that contained support for potentially life-saving medical research as well as a number of other provisions I've been working to get done for a long time - was signed into law.

One such provision stems from what I learned on my 28-city rural health tour last year. Our rural communities face a series of unique health care challenges, none more serious than the epidemic of opioid abuse. I always have believed there's nothing partisan about this issue, and the progress we made in this bill is proof. Thanks to the support of Democrats and Republicans alike, we were able to secure more than \$1 billion to combat opioid abuse in communities across the country.

The Cures law also includes a comprehensive measure I wrote to improve how our criminal justice system treats people with mental illness. My measure includes ideas that I heard from communities all across Minnesota about how to reduce the number of people who wind up in jail when they should be receiving treatment: it funds mental health courts and diversion programs (which can help people who get in trouble with the law receive counseling and rehabilitation instead of jail time), and it supports training for law enforcement professionals so they can respond to mental health crises safely and effectively.

To be sure, there's lots more work to be done - not just on infrastructure, health care, and criminal justice, but across the board. And we need to do everything we can to improve our economy so that every family in Minnesota can build some real financial security. And, of course, we need to do all this in a Washington where progress never has come easily.

U.S. Sen. Al Franken represents Minnesota in Washington, D.C. He can be reached at 202-224-5641 or <http://franken.senate.gov>.



‘Stalking: Know It. Name It. Stop It.’

January is National Stalking Awareness Month, a time to focus on a crime that affected 7.5 million victims in one year. The theme - “Stalking: Know It. Name It. Stop It.” - challenges the nation to fight this dangerous crime by learning more about it.

Stalking is a crime in all 50 states, the U.S. Territories and the District of Columbia, yet many victims and criminal justice professionals underestimate its seriousness and impact. In one of five cases, stalkers use weapons to harm or threaten victims and stalking is one of the significant risk factors for femicide (homicide of women) in abusive relationships. Victims suffer anxiety, social dysfunction, severe depression at much higher rates than the general population and many lose time from work or have to move as a result of their victimization.

Stalking is difficult to recognize, investigate and prosecute. Unlike other crimes, stalking is not a single, easily identifiable crime but a series of acts, a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause that person fear. Stalking may take many forms, such as assaults, threats, vandalism, burglary or animal abuse, as well as unwanted cards, calls, gifts or visits. One in four victims report

that the stalker uses technology, such as computers, global positioning systems devices or hidden cameras, to track the victim's daily activities. Stalkers fit no standard psychological profile, and many stalkers follow their victims from one jurisdiction to another, making it difficult for authorities to investigate and prosecute their crimes.

If more people and communities learn to understand and recognize stalking, there's a better chance to protect victims and prevent tragedies.

To learn more about stalking, visit the Stalking Resource Center at www.victimsofcrime.org/src. The SRC envisions a future in which the criminal justice system and its many allied community partners will effectively collaborate and respond to stalking, improve victim safety and well-being and hold offenders accountable.

Barb Dinkel Goodrich
General Crime Services Coordinator
Hands of Hope Resource Center - Todd County

Public Notices

Eighty percent of people polled believe that governments should be **required to publish** public notices in newspapers. But for years, government has tried to “hide” public notices by either posting them on government websites only, or by not publishing them at all. Newspapers across the country are fighting for YOUR right to that information. **Keep public notices public.**

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.....	maryfreeman@isd2170.k12.mn.us	
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.....	gregfrisk@yahoo.com	
Dave Hoernberg.....	218-296-2545	
.....	dave.hoernberg@isd2170.k12.mn.us	
Bruce Lund.....	218-894-2202	
.....	bruce.lund@isd2170.k12.mn.us	
Chad Longbella.....	218-894-1526	
.....	longb5@charter.net	
Bryan Winkels.....	218-895-7189	
.....	bwinkels2170@gmail.com	
Mary Klamm, Supt.....	218-894-5400	
.....	mary.klamm@isd2170.k12.mn.us	

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Publisher Devlin Newspapers, Inc.
General Manager Brenda Halvorson info@staplesworld.com
News Editor Mark Anderson editor@staplesworld.com
Advertising Representative.... Gary Mueller gmueller@staplesworld.com
Graphics/Photo Tech..... Janice Winter jwinter@staplesworld.com
Bookkeeping/Circulation
Front Office/Proofreader..... Kathy Odden kodden@staplesworld.com
CWC Reporter Dawn Timbs dtimbs@staplesworld.com
Front Office office@staplesworld.com
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Working on barn quilts

Brian Schornack, Anna Miller and Pam Collins worked on barn quilts when Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota was first creating the quilt trail. Now they are seeking to expand the trail and will hold an information meeting at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 23, at the Staples Community Center. (Submitted photo)

Learn about barn quilts, trail, at Jan. 23 meeting

Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota will hold an information meeting Monday, Jan. 23, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Staples Community Center.

Anyone interested in how to make a barn quilt and how to become part of the barn quilt trail are encouraged to attend.

Lisa Kajer and Mary Noska will explain the process for creating a barn quilt from choosing the correct board, paint and design. Pam Collins will talk about what to consider when choosing colors.

The organization is specifically seeking people interested in making a 4 ft. by 4 ft. or an 8 ft. by 8 ft. barn quilt to be added to the Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota trail. However, Kajer added they will consult with and advise anyone who wants to make a barn quilt, whether it first with their project or not.

To be on the trail the quilt must be able to be seen from a public road or highway in Todd, Wadena, Cass or Morrison counties near Staples and Motley.

Kajer noted that the barn quilt does not necessarily have to be on a building. Depending on the location, it can be attached to a fence or mounted on posts.

Applications will be available at the meeting. Eight to ten applications will be chosen to receive some reimbursement toward the cost of the quilt.

Committee members will meet with successful applicants to inspect the possible locations and discuss installation. Once the quilt is painted and mounted, the committee will inspect the project again before the stipend is released.

Projects will be accepted for possible reimbursement on a first come, first served basis.

One of the goals of Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota is to have an economic impact on the area. Specific statistics are not

available but the organizers have plenty of anecdotal evidence from other trails in the state.

“The Central Minnesota Barn Quilt Trail is an amazing asset that Lisa and Mary are bringing to the area,” said Melissa Radermacher, director of the Staples Economic Development Authority. “This type of work impacts the community by drawing interest and visitors to our area. When visitors come to our community they eat at the local restaurants, get gas at the local gas stations and maybe stop in for a cup of coffee at the local coffee shop, all which helps our businesses and community thrive.”

Kajer said when the committee visited the Swedish Barn Quilt Trail in east central Minnesota, they were told about people also visiting restaurants, gas stations and shops while in the area.

She also said a woman started her own tour company after seeing the popularity of the Carver County Barn Quilt Trail. The Carver County organization also pursued their own marketing materials, such as coffee mugs.

A group in Iowa noted they had no idea how many people their trail would bring to their county.

Barn Quilts of Central Minnesota also has begun a barn quilt trail for businesses featuring 2 ft. by 2 ft. quilts.

For more information about the organization see <http://barnquiltsmn.org>.

For more information about the meeting contact Lisa Kajer at 218-894-2096.

This project is being sponsored by the Staples Motley Area Arts Council and is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Five Wings Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Fund.

Acts of Solace Project seeking performers

The Acts of Solace Project seeks performers for a public reading on Saturday, February 4, at the Cyber Cafe in Wadena. The peer-run mental health nonprofit Wellness in the Woods is partnering with community-based theatre artist Haley Honeman to develop a performance aimed at fostering awareness about suicide in the region through true stories and monologues.

This project is a short three day commitment from performers who will preview a first draft of the script by incorporating audience feedback for a full production in the summer. Rehearsals will be held: Thursday, Feb. 2, 6-8 p.m. and Friday, Feb. 3, 6-8 p.m. Public Reading will be: Saturday Feb. 4, at 2 p.m. (Actors will be called at 1 p.m.)

Anyone interested in

performing in this play development reading can send a resume or short letter of interest to haley-honeman@gmail.com. Performers of all ages, genders, races, ethnicities and experience levels are encouraged to apply.

The Acts of Solace Project is largely funded by an ABCD grant from the Five Wing Arts Council.

Educational Opportunities

January 18

FREE INFANT MASSAGE CLASS sponsored by Lakewood Health System, will be held on five Wednesdays, from 6 - 7 p.m., beginning Jan. 18, in the lower level classrooms at Lakewood's main campus in Staples. The class is led by certified massage therapist Laura Sonenstahl; and is open to all parents and caregivers, to learn how to massage their infants under 12 months. For info., to register, call 218-894-8425 or email laurasonenstahl@lakewoodhealthsystem.com.

January 21

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY CLASS Sat., Jan. 21, 9 a.m., Staples Sportsmen's Club (McGovern Park). Free. For info., to register, call Staples-Motley Community Ed., 218-894-2497; or online at www.isd2170.k12.mn.us.

Farmers Market annual meeting

The Staples Area Farmers Market will hold their annual meeting Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Lions Hall at 402 Wisconsin Ave. SE, Staples.

The meeting will begin at 11 a.m. and will include a potluck lunch.

All vendors as well as the public are encouraged to attend.

For information contact Barry Thoele at 218-296-0446 or Lois Detloff at 218-924-2704.

Economics of north central Minnesota to be discussed

Lakeland Currents host Ray Gildow will welcome Brigid Tuck, Economic Impact Analyst with the University of Minnesota Extension, for an economic overview of north central Minnesota on the Lakeland Public Television show to be broadcast at 8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 13.

Together they will discuss how communities utilize economic data and research to expand and enhance their local business development. Also, they will focus on the economic diversity that is unique to the region and how to best make targeted investments to support communities.

This episode of “Lakeland Currents” will also be available from the same time and on an ongoing basis at lptv.org

Blood drive in Motley

Red Cross issues emergency call, severe winter blood shortage

The American Red Cross has a severe winter blood shortage and is issuing an emergency call for blood and platelet donors to make a donation appointment now and help save patient lives.

An upcoming blood donation opportunity will be held Wednesday, Jan. 18, 12 - 6 p.m., at the Motley United Methodist Church. The church is located at 847 3rd Ave. S.

According to a press release from the American Red Cross, hectic holiday schedules for many regular blood donors contributed to about 37,000 fewer donations in November and December than what was needed.

Snowstorm and severe weather have also impacted donations. Nearly 100 blood drives were forced to cancel in December, re-

sulting in more than 3,100 blood donations going uncollected.

“Blood and platelet donations are critically needed in the coming days so that patients can continue to receive the lifesaving treatments they are counting on,” said Sue Thesenga, communications manager of the local Red Cross Blood Services Region. “We encourage donors to invite a family member or friend to donate with them to help meet patient needs. Right now, blood and platelet donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than they are coming in.”

More information can be found online at www.redcrossblood.org. To make an appointment at the Motley Blood Drive, or for more information, call Janet at 218-352-6188.

Struggling to pay your heat bill?

With more frigid temperatures here, the Minnesota Department of Commerce wants to remind low-income Minnesotans on how to get help paying their heating bills through the state's Energy Assistance Program.

“Energy assistance helps pay energy bills so that low-income seniors, veterans and families do not struggle keeping their home heat on during our cold winters,” said Commerce Commissioner Mike Rothman. “Heating your home is a necessity in Minnesota, and we don't want anyone's health or safety put at risk because they can't afford to pay for heat.”

Energy Assistance helps low-income homeowners and renters pay for heating bills through grant

money paid directly to utility companies and heating fuel vendors on behalf of eligible households. The funding also helps some homeowners repair or replace malfunctioning heat systems. Households that include young children, people with disabilities, veterans, and seniors are especially encouraged to apply.

Average annual grant is \$500

In October 2016, Minnesota received \$101 million in federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funds for this year's Energy Assistance Program. Last year Minnesota served nearly 133,000 households with EAP funds, with an average grant of about

\$500.

Commerce administers the Energy Assistance Program in partnership with 30 local service providers throughout the state. The program is federally funded and helps households that earn less than 50 percent of the state's median annual income (\$47,194 for a family of four) obtain funds to help pay their heating bills.

How to apply for Energy Assistance

New applicants have until May 31, 2017 to apply, but funding is limited and administered on a first-come, first-served basis. Qualifying households must apply for assistance at the local service provider in their area. To find your local service provider, call the Commerce Department toll-free at 800-657-3710 or visit the Energy Assistance Program section of the Commerce Department's website.

Mark Your Calendar

January 18

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MTG Wed., Jan. 18, 5:30 p.m., lower level of Twisted Sisters Bar and Grill, Staples. Public invited.

January 19

COMMUNITY OUTREACH DAY sponsored by the Cass

County Sheriff's Office, will be held Thurs., Jan. 19, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., at the Sylvan Township Building, 12956 24th Ave. SW, Pillager. Public invited to visit with Sheriff Tom Burch and members of the sheriff's office staff. Firearm permit applications available; prescription drug disposal box will be there as well.

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Fri. Sat. Sun. 2 Shows at 7:10 & 9:30
Mon. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:10
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Jan. 14 & 15 at 1:25 pm

HIDDEN FIGURES

Screen 3: Fri. thru Thurs. Jan. 13 - 26
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Obituaries



Joel Eggert

Joel Patrick Eggert, 46 of West Seattle, Washington, passed away Dec. 4, 2016 just days before his 47th birthday.

A memorial service will be held January 14, 2017 at 1 p.m., at Central Lutheran Church, 1103 School St. NW, Elk River.

Joel was born December 14, 1969, in Stillwater. He graduated from Rockford High School and completed courses at Dunwoody Institute in architectural drafting and welding classes at Highline Community College. Joel moved to Seattle, in 1994. He worked for Alaska Airlines and worked for Delta Marine for the past 10 years.

Joel was a member of the Seattle music and art community. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle, music and his art.

He is survived by one daughter, Rhiannon; one son, Zachary; and one granddaughter Hayler Wilder; parents, William and Laurie Preston and Dwight and Judy Eggert; grandmother, Ida McKibben; three sisters, Stacey (Mike Basse), Paula, and Lori (Jeff Maus); aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins, friends and co-workers from Delta Marine.

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Carol Peterson

Carol Ann Petersen, "Zaz," 51, of Nisswa, passed away with her family at her side on December 26, 2016 at Essentia-St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 1 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa. Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the church.

Arrangements are with the Brenny Funeral Chapel in Brainerd.

Carol Ann was born November 8, 1965, in Browerville, to Russell and Gwen Norberg. She graduated from Staples High School in 1984 and studied at Augustana University.

Carol Ann cherished her loved ones and made anyone she was with feel special, as well as the countless close friends in her online community. She battled cancer with humor and grace (and colorful, mismatched socks), lifted daily by her strong faith in God and the love of family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Bryan; one son, Isaiah and one daughter, Janae; parents; brother, Jon Norberg; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Rich and Carolyn Petersen; sister-in-law, Brenda Bull; nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and countless friends.

For those unable to attend the services, it will be streamed online: <https://livestream.com/lcnisswa>.

w2c A00006B2017JN12



Dawn Beers

Dawn Beers-Schroeder, 68, of Rochester, died peacefully surrounded by family and friends December 25, 2016 at Seasons Hospice in Rochester.

A Memorial Mass will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Rochester. Visitation will be held Friday, Jan. 13, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Macken Funeral Home in Rochester and one hour prior to services at the church on Saturday.

Dawn was born March 4, 1948, in Wadena to Harry and Gladys (Hunter) Beers. She grew up in Grand Rapids, and graduated from the University of Minnesota, Duluth and the College of St. Catherine, with degrees in speech pathology and nursing. She spent her career as an RN in the cardiac critical care unit and the emergency department at St. Mary's Hospital, in Rochester. Dawn was active throughout her life in many social, environmental, athletics and nursing organizations. She was an avid distance runner and enjoyed outdoor sports.

She is survived by one son, Jason Schroeder and one daughter, Marissa Hedman.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Memorials can be made to the charity of your choice. Online condolences: www.mackenfuneralhome.com.

w2c A00006B2017JN12

Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL INCLUDED:

Born to Michael and Sarah Reiner of Brainerd, a baby boy, Lucas Michael weighing nine pounds, three ounces on December 31, 2016.

Born to Mercedes Bolin and Matthew Peterson of Browerville, a baby boy, Chase Lane weighing seven pounds, six ounces on January 1, 2017.

Born to Hailey Holtti and Isaiah Erbe of Motley, a baby girl, Maeva Lu weighing eight pounds, 10 ounces on January 2, 2017.

Born to Kristen Peterson and Nicholas Kasten of Staples, a baby girl, Nala May weighing six pounds, 10 ounces on January 3, 2017.

Born to Amanda Borgstrom and Michael Xaynhachack of Cushing a baby

boy, Kenzo Niran weighing seven pounds, five ounces on January 4, 2017.

* * * * *

Born to Jordan and CheyAnne (Gaskey) Ludovissie of Paducah, Ky, a baby boy, Dax Jordan weighing six pounds, eight ounces on December 30, 2016 at CentraCare Hospital, St. Cloud.

Grandparents are Heather Gaskey, Jim Gaskey, Morgantown, Ky; Paul and Stephanie (Brichacek) Ludovissie, Paducah, Ky.

Great-grandparents are Gina and Chuck Porter, Morgantown, Ky; Pat and the late Brad Brichacek, Browerville; Arlene Ludovissie, Staples and David Ludovissie, Wadena.

Great-great-grandparents are June Cline, George and Bethel Brichacek, all of Browerville.

Todd commissioners interviews coordinator

By Karin Nauber
Todd County reporter

As part of their year-end meeting Dec. 29, the Todd County Commissioners completed a full-board interview of coordinator candidate Joseph Hatch.

The interview team had previously conducted the first round interviews for the position and recommended Hatch for a second round interview with the full county board. Several department heads were also present.

Hatch spoke briefly about his work history with the cities of St. Paul and New Brighton, citing 15 years of experience in local government. He has worked as a code enforcement supervisor and management analyst/human resources specialist for the city of New Brighton.

Five years ago, Hatch pursued his master's degree in public administration. He now works in human resources at Tree Trust, a firm that hires unemployed people to plant trees in the Twin Cities.

When asked why he left the work with the city of New Brighton, he said there had been a lot of changes in the city in the last two years, from the top down, and he felt it was time for him to do something else.

One of his first jobs with the county would be building relationships with the department heads.

"One of my skills is building relationships," he said.

He also said he would not come in with a goal or the intention to change things so that everyone

could be on the same page.

Commissioner David Kircher asked Hatch how he would handle differences with the commissioners.

Hatch said that he would get the issues out front and have good conversations.

"I won't say there won't be disagreement, but our common ground is the best interest of the county," he said.

He spoke about some of the ideas he had about bringing in businesses to complement the ag industry and working with the businesses already here to keep them.

When asked about major budget experience, Hatch said that the last four years he worked in New Brighton they had used a team approach to managing the budgets.

He was responsible for the administration budget of \$900,000 and the recycling budget for \$220,000.

Regarding union negotiations Hatch said he would establish and build relationships with the agents and union stewards beforehand.

He has also worked with the same law firm that Todd County employs for their labor attorney.

Kircher asked how he would deal with a difficult department head.

Hatch said that it was about relationship building, but that first they had to be professional. He said he would work to build a good rapport.

"Disagreements will happen, but good communication skills help. I am of the opinion that people generally have good intentions and that through sitting down and having con-

versations things can be resolved. It may be tough," he said.

He admitted he would have a lot to learn about what the county had to offer, but felt he had a fairly well-rounded background.

He mentioned that his family has owned property in Battle Lake since 1872.

While he likes the larger city and all it has to offer, he said that he thinks a smaller town could be quite nice, too.

He enjoys winter sports and also enjoys going out on the lake in the summer.

"If anyone has a pontoon, I'm always available," he joked.

He said he would explore things that would bring people to the county.

As far as grant-writing experience, he hasn't had a lot, but has worked with a few.

He said there were community development grants for the city of New Brighton and while he did not directly manage them, he worked closely with his boss who did. He said he could consult with her if he had any questions.

Commissioner Randy Neumann asked Hatch if he took good notes.

Hatch said that if they were in a negotiation situation, that everyone involved should take good notes and that they can all go back and discuss what they heard.

"The big thing is to not go in unprepared and don't be afraid to get data," said Hatch.

Kircher asked Hatch if he was applying for any other positions.

Hatch said that he was not at this time.

Central Lakes College Honors

Central Lakes College, Brainerd and Staples, has announced its 2016 Fall Semester Honors List. The President's List includes students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher while enrolled in at least 12 credits. The Dean's List includes students who earned a grade point average of 3.25 - 3.74.

The released honors list does not include students who have requested no release of information. Local students named includes:

Motley

Michelle Boyer, Robert Hazuka, Amber Hoggarth, Alisha Johnson, James Nistler, LaManda Nurnberger, Devon Roberts-Flanagan, President's List; Ashley Ayers, Derek Cleveland, Nathan Douglas, Eric Kossan, Chelcee Shereck, Matthew Smith,

Dean's List.

Pillager

Hannah Gaalswyk, Kelsie Hanson, Katherine Johnson, Donovan Kobs, Justin Mast, Jeremy Weiland, Jeffrey Zaleski, President's List; Chasidy Greenwaldt, Heather Joslin, Samantha Levig, Alayana Piette, Dean's List.

Staples

Kathryn Barrett, Jennifer Dolezal, Nicholas Downs, Molly Lindgren, Darci McGillivray, Nicholas O'Brien, Keegan Wolmutt, President's List; Jessica Anderson, Elizabeth Brown, Brandon Cameron, Emily Cushing, Gaylen Davidson, Melinda Duke, Kyle Ekholm, Shania Holst, Ryle Jordan, Jared Reining, Jacob Smith, Melissa Soule, Sheena Ziegler, Dean's List.

Student Achievements

St. Cloud State University,

has announced its 2016 Fall Semester Dean's List. To be eligible, students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale. Local students named include:

•Hannah Horn, Pillager, School of Health and Human Services, Nursing

• Kelly Mast, Pillager, School of Education, Early Childhood Education

• Samantha Weyer, Staples, School of Health and Human Services, Social

Work.

BRITTENY KYLANDER, Staples, recently graduated from Minnesota State Community and Technical College, Fergus Falls.

MINNESOTA STATE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE, has announced its 2016 Fall Semester President's List. To qualify, students must complete 12 or more college-level credits for the semester and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Local students named include:

•Chadron Beebe, Motley

• Torri Thompson, Pillager

• Celena Martin, Staples

• Krista Mudek, Staples

• Robbyn Watland, Staples

• BethAnn Wolters Daly, Staples.

THE UNIVERSITY OF JAMESTOWN, N.D., has announced its 2016 Fall Semester Dean's List. Local students named include:

• Cassidy Peterson, Pillager

• Tatum Williams, Staples.

Lakewood's Care Center gets oral healthcare grant

Lakewood Health System Care Center recently received a \$45,000 grant from Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation which

will offer care center residents increased access to oral healthcare, as well as help develop relationships with community dentists and optometrists by providing coordinated care to meet residents' needs and preferences in the delivery of high-quality, personalized care.

With this funding, LHS Care Center will provide support for purchasing equipment and other direct costs related to preparing an exam room for the geriatric population.

"Having dental services available for the resident on-site, in their home, is going to be a fantastic option," said Kathy Dobson, LHS Vice President of Senior Services. "We look forward to working with our residents, families and communities on this

expanded service option; and appreciate the support from Delta Dental to make this possible."

Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation focuses on choosing grant recipients who show innovative strategies in expanding oral health access for Minnesota's underserved populations; demonstrate significant opportunity to promote and expand preventive and education services; and show an ability to measure results.

"Lakewood has provided care to this community for 80 years and we are pleased for the opportunity to support them in their efforts to ensure good oral health care for patients in all ages of need," said Joe Lally, Executive Director of Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation.

Dr. Peter Brenny DENTIST
•Staples only
resident Dentist
•Staples most experienced Dentist
Complete Family Practice
218-894-2755
212 4th St. NE, Staples

Wayne and Myrna (Spilman) Martin
of Pillager
CELEBRATED 30 Years
of marriage on
December 29, 2016.
They were married in Brainerd in 1986.

LAVERNE'S TRAVEL
Call (320) 632-5727 to join our 2017 tours www.lavernestravel.com

- PANAMA CANAL CRUISE, 10 Days, March 19-28...\$2,799
- LaVerne's 75th Birthday Surprise "Day Trip", April 12...\$120
- PRIDE OF POLAND AND PRAGUE, 9 days, April 6-14...\$3,325
- 4th Annual SPRING MYSTERY TRIP, 3 days, April 19-21...\$369 (bus 1 full; reserving for bus 2)
- FOOTBALL STADIUM TOUR, 3 days, May 4-6...\$429
- NEW ORLEANS/NASHVILLE/ MEMPHIS, 8 days, May 8-15...\$1,349 (sign up by Feb. 15/ SAVE \$50!)
- QUILT TOWN USA TOUR, 3 days, May 17-19...\$349
- 24th ANNUAL ALASKA, 10 days, July 8-17...\$3,999
- CANADIAN ROCKIES, 7 days, Aug. 26-Sept. 1...\$1,799
- SEATTLE, VICTORIA, VANCOUVER, 7 days, Sept. 18-24...\$2,199 (sign up by May 1/SAVE \$100!)
- BLUE DANUBE RIVER CRUISE, 11 days, Sept. 20-28...\$4,999
- 19th Annual NEW ENGLAND, 11 days, Oct. 8-18...\$1,799

14974 Pondview Drive, Little Falls, MN

We would like to express our heartfelt
Thank You
to everyone who sent flowers, food and memorials during the loss of our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.
Thank you for your kind words, thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. A special thank you to Mike and Heidi Iten, Father Mathew Crane, the nurses and staff at Central Todd County Care Center who gave her such kind and loving care, also thank you to those who prepared the delicious lunch and those who provided the beautiful music during the service.
Your kindness and support has meant so much to us.
The family of Dolores Noska

Geneva (Olmschenk) Mollenhauer is turning 90!
~OPEN HOUSE~
Sunday, Jan. 22, 2 to 4 pm.
at her home, Lakewood Senior Living (Conference Center), 500 Lakewood Drive, Crosby

Celebrating 15 Years of National Mentoring Month

January is National Mentoring Month, and this year Catholic Charities Central Minnesota Foster Grandparent Program is celebrating 15 years of the mentoring movement and expanding quality mentoring opportunities to connect more of our community's young people with caring adults.

In Central Minnesota, more than 200 Foster Grandparents are a part of this effort, serving in schools, Head Starts and other local non-profits. The senior volunteers of the Central Minnesota Foster Grandparent Program provide meaningful, supportive relationships for children with special needs that enrich the lives of all involved. In 2016, these Foster Grandparents invested over 131,000 hours into the children of our local communities.

Fifteen Foster Grandparents serve Northern Todd County schools in Bertha, Motley and Staples. These grandparents become role models for the students they mentor. Mentorship is one of the greatest gifts that we can give to students.

Research shows that mentors can play a powerful role in providing young people with the tools to make responsible choices, attend and engage in

school and reduce or avoid risky behavior like drug use. In turn, these young people are:

- 55 percent more likely to be enrolled in college
- 81 percent more likely to report participating regularly in sports or extra curricular activities.
- 78 percent more likely to volunteer regularly in their communities.
- More than twice as likely to say they held a leadership position in a club or sports team.

National Mentoring Month each January allows for unique engagement from community members interested in becoming a mentor. This year, with the support of the mentoring community, we are encouraging the public to go beyond just digital engagement - and become involved in making a real life impact. Mentoring relationships are at their best when connections are made between a caring adult and a young person who knows that someone is there to help guide them through those real life decisions.

About Central Minnesota Foster Grandparent Program

Foster Grandparents spend time each week helping children in schools,

early education programs, residential facilities, and other nonprofit agencies. Through their service, the Foster Grandparents create relationships with and become role models for children who need such constructive relationships the most.

Senior Corps, which is under the direction of the Corporation for National & Community Service, consists of the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. The Central Minnesota Foster Grandparent Program is sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud.

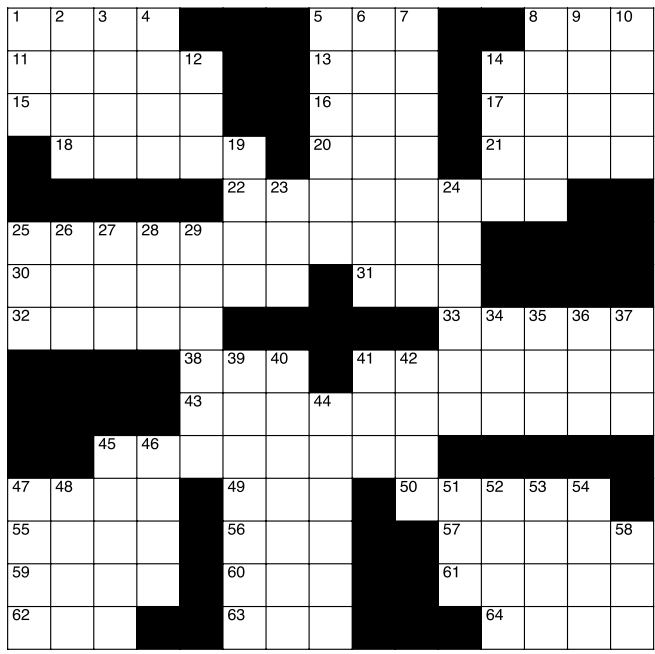
For information on the Foster Grandparent Program, or becoming a Foster Grandparent, contact Jon Knopik at 320-229-4593 (Toll-Free 866-895-7992) or jknopik@ccstcloud.org.



Knights of Columbus donate

The Knights of Columbus made a \$600 donation to the Staples Area Food Shelf Jan. 10. The funds were raised during a recent pancake breakfast held at Sacred Heart Church in Staples, of which the Knights of Columbus are affiliated. Pictured above, from left, are Larry Odden, Knights of Columbus member; and Fran Mertens, food shelf director. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

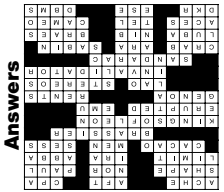
- 1. Pain
- 5. Near the stern of a ship
- 8. Certified public accountant
- 11. External appearance
- 13. Neither
- 14. He played with Peter & Mary
- 15. Maximum
- 16. Irish republican organization
- 17. Swedish rock group
- 18. Source of chocolate
- 20. Counterparts to women
- 21. Type of levy
- 22. More tasteless
- 25. OUse SomebodyÖ rockers
- 30. Burst
- 31. Flightless, fast bird
- 32. Type of salami
- 33. Charges to live somewhere
- 38. Ji dynastyÖs ancestral home

- 41. They play music
- 43. One who cancels
- 45. Resin from an African tree
- 47. Shellfish
- 49. Notre Dame coach
- 50. Thoroughbred horse race: __ Stakes
- 55. Empire in pre-colonial C. Africa
- 56. Small piece of caramel
- 57. Hillsides
- 59. Does great
- 60. Israeli city __ Aviv
- 61. Brief appearance
- 62. Danish krone (abbr.)
- 63. Midway between east and southeast
- 64. Database mgmt. system

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Sign language
- 2. In style
- 3. Syrian city
- 4. A long narrative poem
- 5. Living thing
- 6. Envision
- 7. Flat surface on a vesselÖs stern
- 8. Scottish sport
- 9. They serve beer
- 10. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 12. When you expect to get there

CW171210



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
Worship Service.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday School
and Coffee Fellowship.....9:35 a.m.
Worship Service.....10:45 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-894-2296
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 Scroggins, Pastor
Saturday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
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
The Old Country Church
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.

First Baptist
903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Skip Hansen
218-746-3768
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Children's Church.....9:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Adrenaline Youth Group.....5:45 p.m.

Hewitt
Church of the Nazarene
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146
Hewitt, MN 56453
218-924-2028
Pastor Wayne Hoffer
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m./6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Prayer.....7:00 p.m.

Verndale
Verndale Alliance
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley
Heath Belknap, Pastor of Student Ministries
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes.....11-11:45 a.m.

Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Malcore
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Family Night.....5:30 p.m.

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale
Church.....218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self.....218-371-7189
Children's Pastor Kenneth Kjeldergaard
Sunday School - Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship.....10:00 a.m.
Prayer & Praise.....6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
6:00 p.m.....Family fellowship meal
6:30 p.m.....Bible Study groups, all ages

Verndale United Methodist
10 3rd Ave. SW, Verndale
218-445-5108
Pastor Jill Pawlowski
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.

Central United Methodist
5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar)
Pastor Chuck Horsager
218-639-4225
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

Reformation 500

Pastor Robin Collins, Trinity Lutheran Church, Staples

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. -Ephesians 2:8-9

Year of our Lord 2017 will mark the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation. In recognition of this the Minneapolis Institute of Art has for the past two months had a special exhibit: "Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation". A wonderful collection of artifacts, many that have never been outside of Germany before, it is well worth seeing, even for non-Lutherans. But you only have one more week.

In so many ways it seems incredible that the writings of an insignificant monk, Martin Luther, in a relatively insignificant place, Wittenberg, Germany, could have sparked such a movement; yet that is what happened. Holding fast to God's promise that a person is saved by God's grace, through faith, and not by any kind of human effort posted a document: THE 95 THESES; intended for scholarly debate, to

the castle church door in Wittenberg (the de-facto community bulletin board) on October 31, 1517. His self-professed intent was only to spark debate and discussion. Well there certainly was discussion - at the highest levels.

When told by officials of the Roman Catholic church to recant his position Luther stood firm. When later told by the emperor he continued to stand firm - standing firmly upon God's unchanging Word. He was declared a heretic and an outlaw. Yet God had a plan - a plan to use Martin to help restore this teaching of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, by Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone.

In Jesus' name, Amen

The Staples area Church Directory is sponsored by these businesses:

Longbella Drug Store
"The Prescription Store"
2nd Ave., Staples • 218-894-2242
Motley and Pillager

Ernie's Food Market
Groceries - Gas - Convenience - more
Staples, MN 218-894-1072

Staples Veterinary Clinic
"Complete Animal Care"
Staples, MN 218-894-1775

Mid-Central Federal Savings Bank
Fully Insured to \$250,000
Staples, MN 218-894-3900

Central Building Supply
Bob Reeck, Manager
Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN

Staples World
Your community newspaper since 1890
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN
218-894-1112

Tower Pizza
Pizza, Pasta, Salads, Sandwiches
Staples, MN 218-894-3299

Staples True Value "Just Ask Rental"
Open 7 days a week.
Staples, MN 218-894-3263



Todd County Commissioners Minutes

MINUTES
TODD COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 7, 2016

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner’s Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 7th day of December, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote. To approve the agenda as presented.

Routine Business

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Auditor Warrants number 228460 through 228700 in the amount of \$2,051,230.20.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number 44832 through 44964 in the amount of \$225,684.48.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Warrants number 511947 through 511979 in the amount of \$36,512.66 and number 69587 through 69755 in the amount of \$110,767.45.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kircher, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Commissioner’s Meeting Minutes for October 4, 2016, October 18, 2016, November 1, 2016, and November 15, 2016 as presented.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kneisl, the

following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

GAMBLING PERMIT
FOR MIDWEST
OUTDOORS
UNLIMITED PRAIRIE
PARTNERS

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for Midwest Outdoors Unlimited Prairie Partners through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a one day Gambling Permit for Midwest Outdoors Unlimited Prairie Partners to hold a raffle at the Hub Supper Club in Burnhamville Township at the address 30905 County 13, Burtrum, MN on March 4, 2017.

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Neumann, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

GAMBLING PERMIT
FOR NWTF-STRUTTIN
BLACK BEARDS

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for NWTF-Struttin Black Beards through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a one day Gambling Permit for NWTF-Struttin Black Beards to hold a raffle at the Clarissa Ballroom in Eagle Valley Township at the address 19281 Kotter Rd, Clarissa, MN on February 4, 2017.

Public Works

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Erickson, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

2017 MASTER BRIDGE
PRIORITY
REPLACEMENT LIST

WHEREAS, Todd County has determined that the attached list of bridge on County State Aid Highways, County Roads, Township Roads, and Municipal Streets are either listed as structurally deficient or are a high priority for removal and replacement within the immediate future, and;

WHEREAS, local roads play an essential role in the overall state transportation network and local bridges are a critical component of the local road system, and;

WHEREAS, State support for the replacement of bridges continues to be crucial to maintaining the integrity of the local road system and is necessary funding source for the County, Townships, and Municipalities to proceed with replacements of the bridges on the attached list, and;

WHEREAS, Todd County intends to proceed with the replacement of these bridges as soon as either State Transportation Bond Funds or State Townbridge Funds become available.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Todd County commits that it will proceed with the replacement of these listed bridges immediately after being notified of the availability of State Transportation Bond Funds or State Townbridge Funds.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Neumann, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

2021 AREA
TRANSPORATION
IMPROVEMENT PLAN
TODD COUNTY
PROJECT NOMINATION
– CSAH 12

WHEREAS, the Central Minnesota Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) annually solicits projects for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding which provides for improvements to the transportation systems, with money requests being project specific, and;

WHEREAS, project nominations must meet eligibility guidelines and qualifying criteria as

established by the Central Area Transportation Partnership, and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Public Works Department recommends that the following project be submitted and nominated for inclusion in the 2021 Area Transportation Improvement Plan, which is a prioritized list of transportation projects that the Central Minnesota Partnership recommends for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP),

County State Aid Highway 12 - from Trunk Highway 287 to Trunk Highway 28

SP 077-612-01X: Bituminous Mill and Overlay Project with Aggregate Shouldering, and;

WHEREAS, this project is currently listed on the Todd County Public Works Department Proposed Five Year Construction Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby support the recommendation of the Public Works Department for submittal and nomination of the above noted project and requests said project be included in the State Fiscal Year 2021 Area Transportation Improvement Plan.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

REJECT BID FOR SALE
OF COUNTY OWNED
PARCELS 36-4013300 &
36-4014300
(IMPOUND LOT AND
STS WOOD SALE LOT)

WHEREAS, Todd County was approached by Long Prairie Packing Company, LLC to consider selling two County owned parcels that contain the Sheriff’s Impound Lot, Veteran’s Service Garage, and the Sentence to Serve Wood Sale Lot (Parcel ID 36-4013300 and Parcel ID 36-4014300), and;

WHEREAS, the County compiled a \$277,183 cost estimate to provide for full replacement of these lots and publically advertised to accept bids for these parcels with a minimum bid requirement that equaled or exceeded the replacement cost of these parcels, and;

WHEREAS, a sealed bid of \$277,185 was received from Henry Street Properties, LLC on November 8, 2016, which contained additional documents (Purchase Agreement Addendum and Lease Agreement) that have caused the bid to be considered incomplete.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby reject the bid of \$277,185 from Henry Street Properties, LLC and authorizes the County Engineer to proceed with the process of re-advertising for a public sale of County owned Parcels 36-4013300 and 36-4014300.

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Budget Request Form to rollover funds to FY2017 Road and Bridge Budget for the purchase of a new sign truck and components.

Ditch Inspector

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kneisl the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

CONTINUATION OF
MAINTENANCE FUND -
COUNTY DITCH 19

WHEREAS, County Ditch 19 has a Maintenance Fund that was established in 1991; this Maintenance Fund has been continued every five years by having a Public Hearing; the current assessment was finished as of payable 2016 taxes; and

WHEREAS, after having discussions with other County Ditch Inspectors and Kurt Deter, Ditch Attorney, we have been advised that it is not necessary to incur the expense of a Public Hearing to continue the Maintenance Fund; and

WHEREAS, the current dollar amount being raised each year for the Maintenance Fund is adequate; and

WHEREAS, Kurt Deter advised that the Ditch Authority can approve a resolution continuing the Maintenance Fund at the existing \$4,410.00 per year.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Ditch Authority approves the continuation of the County Ditch 19 Maintenance Fund for the 2017 tax year for the total amount of \$4,410.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a Resolution will be brought before the Ditch Authority yearly for a decision on the Maintenance Fund continuation.

Sheriff’s Office

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kneisl the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

2016 FEDERAL
BOATING SAFETY
EQUIPMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, Todd County Sheriff Don Asmus has submitted the 2016 Federal Boating Safety Grant to the Todd County Board of Commissioners, and;

WHEREAS, in this Boat and Water Safety grant it awards the amount of \$4,100 to Todd County to purchase one (1) sonar device, one (1) pair of binoculars, one (1) boat prop and one (1) boat cover.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners accept the 2016 Federal Boating Safety Equipment Grant and authorize Sheriff Don Asmus to carry out the conditions of the grant.

County Surveyor/
County Recorder

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kneisl the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve signing the Surveyor’s Certificate of Plat Correction for MICHAEL’S SUBDIVISION OF A PORTION OF GOVERNMENT LOT 1 SECTION 4, TWP 128N, RANGE 35W AND A TRIANGULAR PARCEL IN SEC 5 T128N, R35W

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Erickson the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

FINAL PLATAPPROVAL
- “CAMACHO
ADDITION” SUB-
DIVISION

WHEREAS, Applicant Christopher and Holly Camacho applied to subdivide a property that is part of Govt. Lot 4 in Section 24 of Villard Township with the plat to be known as Camacho Addition

WHEREAS, The Camacho Addition Plat consists of one residential lot of 10.49 acres more or less, located in the Shoreland Zoned District of Long Prairie River,

WHEREAS, On October 6, 2016 the Todd County Planning Commission recommended the following property be considered for Subdivision pursuant to Todd County Subdivision Regulation and Ordinance: That part of Government Lot 4 and that part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter all in Section 24, Township 133 North, Range 32 West, Todd County, Minnesota. Described as follows:

Commencing at the southwest corner of said Section 24; thence North, assumed bearing, along the west line of said Section 24, 1270.26 feet to the point of beginning of the land to be described; thence northeasterly along a tangential curve concave to the east, radius of 818.51 feet, central angle of 42 degrees 52 minutes 43 seconds, 612.55 feet, said curve also being the center of a public roadway (C.S.A. H. No. 28); thence North 42 degrees 52 minutes 43 seconds East, along tangent and along said center line, 573.65 feet; thence North 00 degrees 23 minutes 31 seconds East 374 feet, more or less, to the shoreline of the Long Prairie River; thence westerly along said river, 650 feet, more or less, to the

west line of said Government Lot 4; thence South 01 degrees 11 minutes 38 seconds West, along said west line, 40 feet, more or less, to the west quarter corner of said Section 24; thence South, along said west line of Government Lot 4, a distance of 1351.12 feet to the point of beginning. 10.49 acres

WHEREAS, On October 18, 2016 the Todd County Board of Commissioners considered the Preliminary Plat for the above described property and approved the Camacho Addition Preliminary Plat (Subdiv 2016-3) with no conditions.

WHEREAS, the Planning & Zoning Department has completed the necessary final plat review and find that all items required for final plat approval have been completed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the final plat of “Camacho Addition” subdivision be approved as presented.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the Planning and Zoning Fee Schedule for 2017 as presented.

SWCD

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Kircher, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To rescind Board Action taken on November 15, 2016 for hiring Mike Becker for Wetland Conservation Coordinator.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the request to put out a bid for vehicles with local vendors.

Solid Waste

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Committee recommendation that, beginning January 1, 2017, the Todd County Transfer Station hours of operation be modified to Winter Hours (December through March) of One Saturday per month 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. that being the 1st Saturday of the month and Summer Hours (April through November) of every Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Auditor-Treasurer
Report

Reminders of upcoming meeting dates for the month of December, 2016.

Commissioners’
Report

The Commissioners reported on the meetings they had attended.

Commissioner Becker recessed the meeting until December 20, 2016.

AUDITOR WARRANTS		
Vendor Name	\$ Amount	
AM. HERITAGE BANK...	\$2,610.00	
BERNDT/HARLAN	3,434.66	
COMPUTER PROS.	4,455.00	
GENE-O’S COUNTRY-		
SIDE REST LLC	7,506.05	
LONG PRAIRIE SANI.		
INC.	3,261.79	
PETERS &		
CHURCHWELL	5,847.56	
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNI.		
SOLID WASTE AUTH	43,401.03	
SANOPI PASTEUR INC.	2,950.33	
WONDERLICH/		
SCOTT A.	4,542.00	
Payments less than		
\$2,000.	12,768.38	
AM. HERITAGE BANK...	60,620.57	
CARD SERVICES		
COBORNS	3,019.57	
FLEET SERVICES/		
WEX BANK	4,145.18	
LONG PRAIRIE OIL CO.	5,153.06	
MASWCD	2,536.00	
MINNESOTA POWER		
& LIGHT	13,745.51	
MN DEPT OF FINANCE...	3,600.72	
MORRISON COUNTY	31,664.10	
STEP	4,966.50	
Payments less than		
\$2,000.	9,223.80	
ABC CONT OF CEN		
MN LLC	7,189.05	
ALLIANCE BUILDING		
CORPORATION	4,085.00	
AMERICAN HERITAGE...	8,302.52	
CITY OF		
LONG PRAIRIE	227,294.41	
LONG PRAIRIE OIL CO	2,985.56	
SAUK RIVER WATER		
SHED DISTRICT	21,173.48	
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	6,687.00	
TRIMIN SYSTEMS INC.	12,600.00	
VOYANT COMMUN, LLC	3,792.99	
Payments less than		
\$2000.	13,309.56	
CENTERPOINT EN.	2,350.36	
ROBERT R. SCHROEDER		
CONST INC.	146,953.60	
SHIRLEY’S GAS &		
GROCERIES.	2,172.17	
STRUCTURAL		
SPECIAL. INC.	27,640.82	
TODD CO AG. SOC.	2,556.28	
Payments less than		
\$2,000.	8,779.13	
AM. HERITAGE BANK...	41,281.32	

CITY OF BERTHA	10,839.60
CITY OF BROWERVILLE	7,996.03
CITY OF CLARISSA	6,555.63
CITY OF EAGLE BEND	13,952.35
CITY OF GREY EAGLE	5,252.03
CITY OF HEWITT	4,116.03
CITY OF	
LONG PRAIRIE	12,729.99
CITY OF OSAKIS	5,012.72
CITY OF STAPLES	20,496.53
REGION V DEV.	
COMMISSION.	2,985.25
SAUK RIVER WATER	
SHED DISTRICT	7,523.83
SCHOOL DISTRICT 213	85,539.31
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2170	43,503.11
SCHOOL DIST. 2753	258,145.33
SCHOOL DIST. 2759	55,578.44
SCHOOL DISTRICT 486	34,677.28
SCHOOL DISTRICT 740	3,130.60
SCHOOL DISTRICT 743	57,653.20
SCHOOL DISTRICT 786	81,010.01
SCHOOL DISTRICT 787	53,371.95
SCHOOL DISTRICT 818	7,603.98
TOWN OF BARTLETT	11,085.00
TOWN OF BERTHA	20,789.84
TOWN OF BIRCHDALE	13,197.40
TOWN OF BRUCE	12,038.41
TOWN OF BURLEENE	17,689.61
TOWN OF	
BURNHAMVILLE	15,355.03
TOWN OF	
EAGLE VALLEY	19,371.04
TOWN OF FAWN LAKE	8,851.22
TOWN OF GERMANIA	14,096.93
TOWN OF GORDON	35,702.55
TOWN OF GREY EAGLE	13,516.81
TOWN OF HARTFORD	27,889.59
TOWN OF IONA	24,317.29
TOWN OF KANDOTA	9,330.56
TOWN OF LESLIE	19,969.69
TOWN OF LITTLE ELK	7,969.53
TOWN OF	
LITTLE SAUK	18,749.18
TOWN OF	
LONG PRAIRIE	19,339.24
TOWN OF MORAN	15,503.07
TOWN OF REYNOLDS	20,075.63
TOWN OF	
ROUND PRAIRIE	38,869.80
TOWN OF STAPLES	15,375.50
TOWN OF	
STOWE PRAIRIE	25,493.30
TOWN OF	
TURTLE CREEK	6,691.01
TOWN OF VILLARD	12,061.58
TOWN OF WARD	20,557.46
TOWN OF WEST UNION	15,152.65
TOWN OF WYKEHAM	24,804.98
Payments less than	
\$2,000	3,108.04
Total	\$2,051,230.20

COMMISSIONERS WARRANTS		
Vendor Name	\$ Amount	
APP. CONCEPTS INC.	5,053.80	
CENTRACARE		
HEALTH SERV.	4,950.68	
CENTRAL SPEC. INC.	55,250.08	
COMPASS MINERALS		
AMERICA	17,177.25	
DIGITAL ALLEY	2,620.00	
DLT SOLUTIONS INC	7,181.48	
GOULD/RHONDA M	2,567.00	
H & L MESABI	7,063.40	
LITTLE FALLS		
MACHINE INC.	2,106.18	
MENCH/JAMES	7,431.00	
MORRISON CO		
PUB. HEALTH SERV.	3,830.22	
NOW MICRO INC.	2,796.00	
OFFICE VENTURES	2,019.65	
ROYAL TIRE	14,748.00	
TRUENORTH STEEL	39,780.90	
TURNKEY/THREE		
SQ. MARKET	5,037.26	
WADENA ASPHALT CO.	4,550.00	
ZUERCHER TECH. LLC	11,476.00	
Payments less than		
\$2,000	30,045.58	
Total	\$225,684.48	

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS		
Vendor Name	\$ Amount	
DHS - MSOP- MN SEX		
OFFENDER PROG.	5,735.00	
DHS - ST PETER		
RTC - 472	13,144.00	
DHS - SWIFT	15,790.61	
FRESHWATER ED.		
DISTRICT	12,227.00	
ITEN FUNERAL HOME -		
BROWERVILLE	4,000.00	
PERISH/ALAN	2,130.94	
RURAL MN CEP INC	18,966.73	
162 Payments less than		
\$2,000	38,773.17	
Total	\$ 110,767.45	

Vendor Name	Amount
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERV.	
OF MN-ST PAUL	3,447.22
NORTH HOMES CHILD.	
& FAMILY SRVS.	6,939.35
NORTHERN PINES	
MENTAL HLTH CTR	5,030.50
PORT OF CROW WING	
BOYS HOME	3,204.00
WEST CENTRAL REG	
JUVENILE CTR.	3,312.50
Payments less than	
\$2,000	14,579.09
Total	\$36,512.66

On a motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held December 7, 2016 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 20, 2016.

Witness my hand and seal:

Barb Becker, Todd County Board Chairperson

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

2pnc

Public Notices

Eighty percent of people polled believe that governments should be required to publish public notices in newspapers. But for years, government has tried to “hide” public notices by either posting them on government websites only, or by not publishing them at all. Newspapers across the country are fighting for YOUR right to that information. That’s our job.

Keep public notices public and in newspapers.

Busy for police as vehicles slide off winter roads

The Staples Police Department assisted the Minnesota State Patrol and county law enforcement officers with multiple cars going off area roads.

Among the reports: Dec. 25 and Dec. 27, cars were towed from Airport Rd in Staples; Dec. 27, two rollovers on Hwy 10 near Aldrich; Dec. 28, one vehicle in the ditch on Warner Rd; Dec. 31, Todd County reported a vehicle in the ditch near Staples; Jan. 2, three vehicles went into the ditch off Hwy 10, one was a rollover.

In other reports into the Staples PD include:

Jan. 8; Staples Police received a report of a female subject throwing property all over the driveway and yard of the complainants. Police spoke with the complainants and discovered the female subject was an ex-girlfriend to one of the complainants. Police attempted to make contact with the subject but were unable to make contact.

Jan. 6; Staples Police assisted Todd County Sheriff's Dept. with a suicidal subject on 305th Ave.

Jan. 6; Staples Police received a report of a male subject threatening a juvenile on the 800 block of 5th St NE. Incident is under investigation.

Jan. 6; Staples Police responded to Lake-wood Health System ER to assist with a patient attempting to leave while on a hold. Police arrived at the hospital and learned the staff had calmed down the subject and return to his room.

Jan. 5; Staples Police received a report of a school bus stop arm violation on the

800 block of 4th St NE.

Jan. 5; Staples Police observed a suspicious vehicle parked on 285th Ave. with the lights off and the vehicle was running on off Hwy 10. Police made contact with the driver and learned the vehicle had blown a tire. The driver was issued a citation for driving after suspension. With the extreme cold, the driver and three passengers were assisted with a ride to an area gas station to wait for vehicle assistance.

Jan. 3; Staples Police assisted a parent whose child had not gotten off the school bus. It was learned that the child had fallen asleep on the bus and missed the stop. Police contacted the bus garage, located the child and advised the parent.

Jan. 3; at 1:28 a.m., Staples Police received a report of an intoxicated male who was removed from the Amtrak train after assaulting a conductor. Police located the subject, identified him and after speaking with the BNSF police, discovered no assault had taken place. The subject was assisted with a ride to America's Best Value Inn.

Jan. 2; SPD was requested to assist with a death notification on Spruce Dr. NE. The SPD notified the spouse of the deceased, and also notified two other subjects, at the request of the spouse.

Dec. 31; Staples Police responded to a report of multiple 911 hang up calls from a residence on the 800 block of 5th St. NE. Police learned that the calls had been made by a child. The caretaker of the child was advised on the incident.

Dec. 31; at 3:41 a.m., Staples Police

were investigating a disturbance in front of Twisted Sisters, when a vehicle police directed to stop fled the scene. Police pursued the vehicle westbound on Hwy 10 for about six miles, before the driver pulled over. Police conducted a felony stop on the vehicle and detained the driver, and a passenger. Tanner Thiel, 24, from North Dakota, was arrested for felony fleeing in a motor vehicle, and 3rd degree D.U.I. The vehicle used in the pursuit was also forfeited.

Dec. 30; Staples Police responded to the LHS for a report of a vehicle hit and run. Police watched footage from the camera and determined the accident happened somewhere else.

Dec. 29; Staples Police received a complaint of a possible drunk driver westbound on Hwy 10 through the city of Staples, weaving back and forth and travelling at a slow rate of speed. Police located the vehicle, driving at a slow rate of speed on the shoulder. Police stopped the vehicle and learned that the driver was elderly, and not aware of their speed and didn't know they were weaving on the road. Police gave the driver a ride to her residence in Wadena.

Dec. 28; Staples Police took a report of a suspicious person trying to buy drugs at their residence. The reporting parties were advised.

Dec. 27; Staples Police responded to LHS emergency room for a patient attempting to leave against orders. Police assisted medical staff and LHS security with returning the patient to the hospital.

Dec. 27; Staples Police responded to a residence on 3rd St. NE for a welfare check on a potentially suicidal subject. Police spoke with the subject and determined everything to be fine.

Dec. 25; Staples Police assisted with traffic control on 6th St. SE at the railroad crossing as the cross arms would not go back up. BNSF was contacted and fixed the problem.

Dec. 2; Staples Police took report regarding a vehicle that was all over the road and the driver was shirtless. The police were out of range, so the information was passed along to Morrison County.

Dec. 24; Staples Police responded to a address for a 911 hangup. Police found that a young child had called from a cell phone and there was no emergency.

Dec. 21; Staples Police conducted a traffic stop on Hwy 10 for obstructed view and a cracked windshield. While at the vehicle police could smell an odor of marijuana. After searching the vehicle police located marijuana wax and arrested Jordan Kondziella, 22, of Blaine and charged her with 5th degree possession of a controlled substance. She was transported to the Todd County Detention Center.

Dec. 20; Staples Police received a report of a school bus stop arm violation in the 1000 block of 4th St NE. The suspect vehicle was traveling southbound at the time and was described as a blue Chevy Malibu.

Dec. 19; Staples Police responded to the Stapleton Apartments for a report of a residence whose water pipes had burst.

Student Recognition

Motley-Staples Middle School

Students receiving the student recognition award at Motley-Staples Middle School for November were:

Alexis Knudson, Kristofer Taylor, Deven Johnson, Olivia Opheim, Kyra Stangle, Destiny Dukowitz, Eli Smith, LaDaynian Bartle, Abigail Simon, Keegan Harvey, Wyatt Kobliska, Landon Mertens, Rafael Caudillo, Kaylee Johnson, Even Allen, Elizabeth Dukowitz, Sivert Klefsaas, Morgan Becker, Dan Bible, Natasha Lyman



Staples-Motley Elementary School

Students receiving the Bucket List award included:

Front row left to right: Molly Carry, Skyla Tepley, Jessica Dukowitz.

Back row: Austin McMillan, Sam Hirschey, Avery Lintner, Landon Moench, Jada Ellingsen, Aubrey Lang



Sacred Heart Area School

Students receiving Student of the Month awards for November were:

Front row left to right:

Clara Maros, Roxy Mertens, Rose Zimmermann.

Back row:

Ashlyn Vogel, Lilly Tyrrell, Ava Birkholtz

These area businesses offer their support and congratulations to the overall excellence exemplified by these students.

Mid Central Federal Savings Bank
Precision Polishing and Plating, Inc.
Arvig
Adam's Electric
Mid-Minnesota Federal Credit Union
Jon's Family Foods
Sylvan Shores
Homestead Veterinary Clinic
Trident Seafoods Corp.
3M
Busker Concrete
Tower Pizza
Harmony House
Northwind Grocery
James Soule Auto Sales
Japke Decorating, Carpet & Gifts
The Spot Café

Staples Ace Hardware
PHB Excavating & Septic Pumping
First International Bank & Trust
Central Building Supply
Staples Dairy Queen
Motley Auto Repair & Towing
Brenny Funeral Home
Stern Rubber Company
Burrows Auto Body
Staples True Value / Just Ask Rental
Unity Bank
Giza Plumbing & Heating
BRICKS Travel Center
Dan Orth, dba Kuhn Insurance Agency
Wayne's Electric of Staples, Inc.
SuperAmerica

Shear Contact
Staples Eye Clinic
Staples Precision Metalcraft
Ron's Auto Repair
Orton's Staples Food Mart
Nyhus Chev./Buick, Inc.
Nelson Insurance Agency of Staples, Inc.
Midwest Family Eye Center
Long Prairie Sanitation, Inc.
Mayer, Porter & Nelson, Ltd., CPA's
Longbella Drug
Ernie's Food Market
Countryside Restaurant
LMH Embroidery
Auto Value Parts Store
Motley Dairy Queen
Staples World

Trends show rural story defies expectations

Researcher to speak in Staples and Long Prairie

The public is invited to join Todd County Citizens Against Drugs coalition members for an engaging presentation on Rewriting the Rural Narrative by Extension Senior Research Fellow Ben Winchester.

It seems the rural story has already been told. Small towns keep getting smaller. Churches, schools, clinics, businesses, and now post offices, have closed their doors as the lucky few migrate out to the big cities. This deficit framework dominates how we discuss and envision our rural communities, but this is not the real story of what is happening in small towns.

The story of rural America since 1970 is rich and diverse, with positive trends occurring under the radar. Learn how these important positive changes have been occurring across the rural landscape require us to rewrite the narrative of rural community change.

Winchester's presentation is free and will be offered two times in Todd County,

on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at the NJPA Conference Room in Staples from 11-12:30 p.m., and at the Minnesota National Bank in Long Prairie from 2-3:30 p.m.

Winchester has been working both in and for small towns across the Midwest for over 20 years. He is trained as a rural sociologist and works as a Senior Research Fellow for the University of Minnesota Extension, Center for Community Vitality. He conducts applied research on economic, social, and demographic topics surrounding a theme of "rewriting the rural narrative" that are vital to rural America. For more information, contact Connie Burns, Health Education Coordinator, at 320-732-2221, or connie.burns@co.todd.mn.us.

Citizens Against Drugs (CAD) strives to create safe and healthy communities for all Todd County residents. CAD coalition members encourage everyone to attend and reflect on how we can collaborate and continue to write our own Rural Narrative.



Taking the oath in Wadena County

The oath of office was given by Judge Sally Robertson, center, to these individuals on Jan. 3 prior to beginning their business for the new year. Each will serve a four year term. From left are Chuck Horsager, District 4 commissioner; Curtis Bryniarski, recently appointed Wadena County Deputy Auditor Treasurer; Robertson; Lee Brekke, Wadena County Assessor; and Jim Hofer, District 2 Commissioner. (Submitted photo)

Twin Eagle Dairy earns water certification

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) has surpassed 300 certified farms, marking a year of strong growth with a milestone. This voluntary program works with farmers and landowners to identify and mitigate risks to water quality on a field by field basis. The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program has certified 306 farms representing virtually every kind of agricultural production from all across the state.

The 300th farm certified is the Twin Eagle Dairy operated by Pat and Jody Lunemann in Todd County. The Lunemann's milk 800 cows and farm 1,500 acres of corn, alfalfa and grass to help feed their herd.

"We wanted to get certified to demonstrate that we are doing the best job we can to make sure we have clean water," said Pat Lunemann. "Initially, we didn't know what to expect

with the program, but as we worked with our local certification specialists we found solutions that worked for our farm and protected the water."

The MAWQCP is delivered in partnership with the Board of Water & Soil Resources, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, and Minnesota's 89 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Through this collaborative effort, the state agencies and SWCDs are able to leverage their individual strengths to work together to recognize and reward farmers for their work protecting Minnesota's most iconic natural resource. This innovative model of conservation planning and delivery has created a program that has been embraced by Minnesota's farm and livestock producers. In 2016 alone, the MAWQCP certified 221 farms and 125,000 acres.

"The success of the Ag Water Certification Program reaffirms that no one cares more about water quality than Minnesota farmers," said Lt. Governor Tina Smith. "I want

to thank the Ag producers who have already participated in the program, and reiterate my continued commitment to building a collaborative relationship between state government and Minnesota farmers."

The 306 farms certified by the MAWQCP represent over 175,000 acres of working lands. To date, these farms have generated 531 new best management practices that are keeping 14.7 million pounds of soil on Minnesota fields annually, and keeping 9.7 million pounds of sediment and 6,086 pounds of phosphorus from entering our lakes, rivers, and streams annually.

After being certified, each farm is deemed to be in compliance with new water quality laws and regulations for 10 years. Certification is also an approved practice farmers can use to comply with the new state buffer law. Certified farmers and landowners can use their certification status to promote their businesses as protective of water quality. Those interested in the program can contact their local SWCD office or visit MyLandMyLegacy.com.

Ask A Trooper

Question: What items should I have in my vehicle during this extreme cold weather? What is the proper procedure if I become stranded and/or go off the road?

Answer: With the recent below zero temperatures, being prepared with an emergency kit and plan can save your life.

We recommend the following items be in your vehicle, especially in the winter:

- Bag of abrasive material (sand, salt, cat litter) or traction mats
- Snow shovel
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Window washer solvent
- Ice scraper with brush
- Cloth or roll of paper towels
- Jumper cables
- Tow chain or rope
- Extra warm clothing (gloves, hats, scarves)
- Blankets

- Warning devices (flares or triangles)
- Drinking water
- Non-perishable snacks for both human and pet passengers
- First-aid kit
- Basic toolkit (screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrench)
- Mobile phone and car charger pre-programmed with rescue apps and important phone numbers including family and emergency services

If stranded, stay in the vehicle and call 911. Provide the Dispatcher with the following information:

- Problem you're experiencing
- Your location (Get in the habit of looking for mile markers and cross streets/roadways)
- Any injuries to yourself or passengers
- Preferred tow company, otherwise the closest approved tow company will be dispatched

At night, keep your dome light on and activate the vehicle's emergency flashers. Be aware that snow can plug your vehicle's exhaust system and cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to enter your car so make sure the exhaust pipe is free of snow and keep a window slightly open while the engine is running. Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and that you have at least a half of a tank of fuel. Slow down and use winter driving skills to avoid crashing or going off the road.

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow at jesse.grabow@state.mn.us.

MAY WE WEIGH IN ON YOUR WEIGHT LOSS STRUGGLES?

IT'S THE LEAST WE CAN DO.

The sleeve gastrectomy is a minimally-invasive procedure with the shortest recovery time, and the fewest complications and dietary restrictions.

FREE BARIATRIC SEMINAR WITH DR. JAY LENZ ON JANUARY 17, AT 6:00 P.M.
Dr. Jay Lenz has been performing the sleeve gastrectomy procedure for over 15 years, so patients can expect personalized, expert care.

While weight loss may be the most immediate benefit of bariatric surgery, other important benefits include better health, reduced joint pain, and the reduced risk of co-morbidities, such as diabetes, congestive heart failure and others. The comprehensive metabolic and bariatric team at Lakewood offers individualized care, both before and after surgery. To sign up for our free bariatric info seminar, call **218-894-8623**.

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We're reaching out for great employees!

DUINICK, INC., NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2017 CONSTRUCTION SEASON

We currently have openings in several of our operations for the upcoming construction year, including:

AGGREGATES Crushing Foreman Crusher Operator Dozer/Loader Operator	ASPHALT/ROAD Superintendent Foreman Paver Operator Screed Operator Roller Operator Laborer
GRADING EQUIPMENT OPERATORS: Loader Dozer Excavator Blade	TRUCKING Semi & Tandem Drivers
BRIDGE Laborer Carpenter	UTILITY OPERATORS: Skid, Broom & Roller
	UNDERGROUND Excavator Operator Backhoe Operator Pipelayer

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We are proud to be a third generation family-owned company. Our employees are the key to our success and we encourage all qualified candidates to apply, including women, minorities, veterans and individuals with disabilities. Duinick, Inc. offers a competitive benefits package.

Find more information and apply online at:
www.Duinick.com
or call **320-978-6011**

DUINICK INCORPORATED



Motley City Council seeks to fill vacant seat

This and other items discussed at their January regular meeting

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Al Yoder, Motley's new mayor, presided at his first city council meeting Jan. 10, 2017. Joining him at the table were Nate Douglas, beginning his first term as council member, and veteran council members Amy Hutchison and Steve Johnson.

One seat on the council still needs to be filled and the council approved a resolution declaring a vacancy on the city council. They also approved a motion to advertise for this position.

The vacancy was created when Yoder, who previously served as a council member, was elected mayor, beginning a two (2) year term effective January 4, 2017. There were two (2) years remaining on Yoder's council term.

After some discussion, the council felt that an ad

should be put in the paper to allow time for interested parties to write a letter of intent. These will be considered at the regular council meeting in February.

In other matters the council:

- **APPROVED** having Ben Oleson, the city's planning and zoning administrator, use the 28 hours carried over from 2016 to prepare the backlog of variances and Conditional Use Permits that have not been recorded at the county recorder's office. Approximate cost for this is \$700, which would be covered by the above-mentioned hours.

- **APPROVED** the final plat for the 'Mill Pond Townhomes Fourth Addition' plat, contingent on the city attorney's approval of the title opinion and the zoning administrator indicating that all other requirements have been met.

Jim Albrecht, with Rainy Day Enterprises, is the property owner.

- **APPROVED** continuing with Hometown Planning as the city's zoning administrator for 2017.

- **SET** a public hearing for Monday, Feb. 13, 6:15 p.m., to consider the vacation of the alley between Curtis Street and Norway Lane, which is by the new Dollar General store.

- **APPROVED**, pending there are no changes from the previous year, the renewal of existing tobacco licenses for the following businesses: Orton's Motley BP, Motley Express, H & R Ten Hi, Bremer's Bar, Northwind Grocery, Motley Discount Liquor, BRICKS Travel Center, Y Knot Package Liquor.

- **APPROVED** School Resource Officer Agreement; and the Morrison County Prosecution contract.

- **NAMED** all local banking institutions and the 4-M Fund as the city's official depository for 2017.

- **NAMED** the Staples World the city's official newspaper for 2017. Prior to their vote, the council discussed whether or not to continue with the Morrison County Record as the official newspaper. It was noted that the Record is given to all Motley residents free of charge and that their rates are less than the Staples World's. Council member Johnson, who made the motion in favor of the Staples World, noted that although their price may be higher, the Staples World covers a number of stories in the Motley area which are read by many. Both Mayor Yoder and council member Hutchison indicated they were "on the fence" about this but in the end voted in favor of the Staples World. This is the first time since 2012 that the Staples World has been named Motley's official newspaper.

- **APPROVED** the following council appointments for 2017: Steve Johnson, Acting Mayor; Al Yoder, Emergency Management Director; Johnson, Assistant Weed Inspector.

- **APPROVED** authorizing signatures for checking and investment accounts from Clerk/Treasurer Lacey Smieja; Mayor Al Yoder; Acting Mayor Steve Johnson; and council member Amy Hutchison for 2017.

- **APPROVED** having Clerk/Treasurer Lacey Smieja as the responsible authority; and having EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) authorization from the Clerk/Treasurer.

- **APPROVED** continuing the liaison policy, with the following council members serving as liaisons to the noted department heads. Nate Douglas, police department; Amy Hutchison, administrative department; Steve Johnson, fire department; and the council member who will be appointed in February will serve as liaison to the maintenance department.

- **APPROVED** the follow-



And the work continues...

The Motley City Council recently held their first regular meeting of 2017, with a new mayor and new council member on board, as well as two returning council members. Pictured above, from left, are Nate Douglas, beginning his first council term; Mayor Al Yoder, who formerly served as a council member; council member Amy Hutchison; and re-elected council member Steve Johnson. There is one vacant council seat, which will be filled at the council's regular meeting in February, per council vote (see story for details). Pictured below, the council signs paper work for Brian Sterriker, a senior at Staples-Motley High School who attended the council meeting as part of a class assignment. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Swearing-in ceremony

Motley Clerk/Treasurer Lacey Smieja facilitated a swearing-in ceremony for newly elected city officers Jan. 4. Pictured above left, taking the oath of office, is Mayor Al Yoder. Pictured in center photo is council member Nate Douglas; and in bottom photo (submitted) is council member Steve Johnson. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Motley Police, Morrison County Sheriff's reports

Recent reports from the Motley Police Department (MPD) and the Morrison County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) included the following:

Jan. 4 - The MPD was parked in front of the fire hall and observed a male walking east on Cedar St. W. and then north on Hwy 10. The juvenile was not dressed for the weather (it was 10 degrees below zero), wearing only a sweatshirt, T-shirt, long pants and sneakers. He was carrying a small boom-box and was not wearing gloves.

Jan. 3 - The MPD received a call from the apartment manager at a building on Pine Ave. S. in Motley, reporting a smell of marijuana from one of the units.

Dec. 31 - The MPD assisted state patrol with a subject who had fled on foot during a traffic stop. The subject and driver were arrested for controlled substance crimes; and one of the subjects was transported to the Morrison County Jail.

Jan. 4 - The MCSO responded to a report of a snowmobile parked close to the white line on Bugle Rd. in Motley. It was towed and will be released with proof of ownership.

Jan. 3 - the MCSO arrested Brian Proz-

inski, 46, during a traffic stop at Superior Ave. in Randall.

Jan. 2 - The MCSO assisted the state patrol in helping tow a vehicle in the ditch on Hwy 10 near Cushing.

Jan. 2 - The MCSO assisted the state patrol with a vehicle rollover near Hwy 10 and 50th Ave. in Cushing. Deputy Al Yoder reported that once the Randall First Responders arrived at the scene, he cleared to go check on two other vehicles in the ditch.

Dec. 30 - The MCSO observed a vehicle traveling north on Hwy 10 and 330th St. in Motley. The vehicle did not have a plate light. Once the vehicle was stopped, the deputy observed signs of drug activity in it. The driver admitted there was marijuana in the vehicle as well as alcohol in the trunk. Upon searching the vehicle, deputies located a small amount of marijuana as well as a pipe inside the center console. Alcohol was located in the trunk. Driver admitted it belonged to them. Being the occupants were under the age of 21, the alcohol and marijuana were seized and disposed of. Driver was given a verbal warning.

ing appointed committees: Planning and Zoning: Pat O'Regan, Bruce Brotherton; Streets: Lacey Smieja, Nate Douglas; Personnel Policy Guidelines: Yoder, Ron Smith, Bruce Brotherton, Todd Judd.

- **APPROVED** Police Chief Ron Smith's request to attend the MN Chiefs of Police Conference in St. Cloud April 18 - 20.

- **APPROVED** sending Public Works Supervisor Bruce Brotherton to the MRWA (Minnesota Rural Water Association) annual conference in St. Cloud March 7 - 9.

- **APPROVED** sending Lacey Smieja, Clerk/Treasurer, to the annual MC-FOA (Minnesota Clerks & Finance Officers Association) Conference March 14 - 17, in Welch; and to the Minnesota Municipal Clerks Institute May 1 - 5, in Plymouth.

- **HEARD** from Mayor Yoder that he has received a lot of positive feedback regarding the Motley Fire Department.

- **HEARD** request from Police Chief Ron Smith that Police Officer Jason Borash be given a pay raise. Chief Smith pointed out that Borash, who has been working as a part-time officer, will be taking a pay cut to come work full-time for the City of Motley. He requested an approximate \$3/hr. raise for Borash. Council member Hutchison said she did not want the council to make a hasty decision and would like to make sure they do things in a correct way.

- **SET** a meeting to discuss the city's pay scale (including steps and grades) for Monday, Jan. 23, 5:30 p.m.

- **HEARD** that the maintenance department has been doing an excellent job with snow removal this year.

- **HEARD** from Brotherton that the maintenance department has been seeing a lot more 'flushable wipes' in pipes. He would like to remind residents that even though a product

may say 'flushable,' unless it is toilet paper, it can result in clogged pipes.

- **HEARD** praise from Johnson regarding the city's fire and police departments. He also said that he is "very proud" of what Smieja has done in the short time she has worked for the city.

- **HEARD** request from city resident Gary Nieken that more salt be put down on streets, especially at pedestrian crossings.

- **HEARD** comments from Jim Albrecht during the public forum regarding the council's discussion about a pay raise for the city police officer position. Albrecht feels that police officers are greatly underpaid for what they do and that the city should not be concerned about a \$3/hr. raise.

- **LEARNED** next planning and zoning meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 26, 6:30 p.m.

- **SET** next regular council meeting for Monday, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m.



Black ice leads to crash

Motley Police, Motley Fire Department, Staples Ambulance and state patrol were at the scene of a one-vehicle crash the morning of Jan. 5, on the Hwy 210 bridge in Motley. Motley Police

Chief Ron Smith said the woman driver hit some ice, lost control and crashed into the side of the bridge. There were no injuries. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)



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104 Give Away	304 Livestock	602 Apartments for Rent
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Heartland Market deadline: 5 p.m. Wednesday.
Reaching over 20,585 homes;

DISTRIBUTED in these paid NEWSPAPERS: Staples World; Barnesville Record-Review; Battle Lake Review; Clay County Union of Ulen; Northwoods Press, Nevis; Eagle Bend/ Bertha/ Clarissa Independent News Herald; Hawley Herald; Henning Citizens Advocate; Long Prairie Leader; Parkers Prairie Independent; Sebeka/Menahga Review Messenger; Verndale Sun.

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The publishers liability for errors in an advertisement or for failure to publish the ad shall be limited to publishing the ad in a subsequent issue or for the refund of any monies paid for an ad not run (and out of date for subsequent issues) providing the advertiser reports the error or omission immediately after it occurs.

All advertising copy is subject to the approval of the general manager. We will not accept ads from anyone with a past due account.

Regarding sex or age preference in help wanted advertising in accordance with the rules adopted by the Civil Rights Commission, the Staples World, Sunday Square Shooter and Heartland Market cannot accept help wanted advertising copy which in any way expresses a sex or age preference on the basis of a bonafide occupational requirement unless the advertiser files an affidavit with the newspaper justifying the sex or age preference on the basis of a bonafide occupational requirement.

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NOTICES



103

Lost and Found

LOST: Jan. 7. Hearing aid, Countryside Restaurant, Motley; Sacred Heart Church in Staples, If found call Gerald Lenk, 218-894-1682. 2x

LOST: Cocker Spaniel mixed, brown & white, blind, deaf and heavy set. Last seen southside of Staples. 218-639-3716. 2x

107 Notices

St. Jude's Novena: May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless pray for us. Say this prayer nine times a day for nine days. On the eighth day your prayer will be answered. Publication must be promised. Thank You. Sacred Heart and St. Jude. PG 2p

SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

201 Business Opportunities

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205 Help Wanted

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Volunteer Firefighters

The Motley Fire Department is accepting applications for the position of volunteer firefighters until January 31, 2017. Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age, have a valid Minnesota driver's license, live within an acceptable response time area and be able to pass a physical examination. Willingness to obtain First Responder/Medical certification is desirable.

Application can be obtained at Motley City Hall or on the City website: www.cityofmotley.com

EOE

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Freshwater Education District is seeking an Occupational Therapist to work in an educational environment. The position will involve working with teams in schools and home visiting. We are interested in candidates who would like either full or part-time hours.

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Phone: 218-631-2281 Ext. 1042, Fax: 218-631-3588
lmurdock@fed.k12.mn.us

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Current Todd County Employment Opportunities

Todd County is looking for reliable, service oriented individuals to serve the citizens of Todd County in part-time capacities in the following positions:

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To learn more about these positions and how to apply visit the official Todd County Website at www.co.todd.mn.us

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Kunstleben, Thielen honored as conservationists

John Kunstleben and Lois Thielen of Swan Lake Acres, Grey Eagle, were honored as outstanding conservationists at the annual convention of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) in Bloomington. The event hosted landowners from around Minnesota – each nominated by individual Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD's).

Todd SWCD selected Swan Lake Acres as its 2016 Conservation Landowner Award Winner. Swan Lake Acres is a farm managed by John Kunstleben and Lois Thielen who have owned and operated the 185 acre farm since 1987.

They have always had dairy cows on the farm, currently milk 45 head, but have milked up to 99 at times over the years.

John and Lois participate in the Farmers Assuring Responsible Management program through their local dairy which recognizes excellent animal husbandry practices. Their cattle are let out daily to graze on pasture during the summer months and for exercise.

In 2015, Lois and John worked collaboratively with the Swan Lake Association to ensure protection of water quality by installing an engineered designed vegetative treatment area, clean water diversions, and settling basins to reduce, collect and treat any potential runoff from the cattle feeding area.

They volunteered as site hosts for 2015 Todd County SWCD Tour opening their farm to a tour bus of



Conservation leaders

Lois Thielen and John Kunstleben at the MASWCD convention in December. (Submitted photo)

farmers, board members, commissioners, citizens and professional agencies showcasing the runoff control practices installed on their farm. They've also offered to be contacts for others who are considering installing similar practices.

John raises hay, corn, grains and soybeans on their 185 acres and on an additional 450 rented acres.

They tackle field erosion in the moment with Lois' philosophy "if erosion exists, we are doing something wrong and we fix it; we don't wait for it to get worse."

They experienced soil erosion on some fields in their early years and solved these issues through adoption of minimum tillage and vertical tillage, strip cropping, grassed waterways and maintenance of buffers to Schwanke Creek and to Big Swan Lake. They own 1,320 feet of Big Swan Lake shore frontage which has always been maintained in a natural condition.

John also enjoys renovating old farm buildings in their original vintage condition – a few of which dot the landscape along the shore of Swan Lake.

One of Lois's many hobbies and careers includes writing for the Times Writers Group. She has used this forum to raise awareness about the difficulty agriculture has with recycling plastics and other waste products that are produced as a result of modern farming practices.

John and Lois go to great lengths to recycle their farm and home wastes. "Everything is separated and recycled."

Lois also has a large organic garden which she maintains every year. Their diet is farm raised and Lois' baking skills are often rewarded with ribbons at the state fair.

Lois has actively participated in the Adopt-A-Highway program for the past 13 years-caring for and cleaning up miles of Highway 287.

John and Lois consider wildlife an important part of their farm. There's been a bald eagle nesting near the lake almost every year and other wildlife are commonly spotted. John usually plants small wildlife food plots or leaves a few rows for game to tide them over the winter. They leave patches of

milkweed around the farm to help support Monarch butterflies and fondly remember the year when a major Monarch migration stopped at their place.

In a generation of waning family farms, Lois and John continue to thrive—making conservation key in the foundation for farm management. They are life-

long and enlightened learners, continually evolving their farm with best management practices that secure longevity and health for the environment.

For more information on other Outstanding Conservationists, visit: www.maswcd.org/Award_Program/2016.

State patrol reports area vehicle crashes

A three-vehicle crash in Morrison County; and two-vehicle crashes in Cass County (one involving a school bus) were among the local incidents reported by the Minnesota State Patrol (MSP) during the past week.

Snow and ice were factors in the Jan. 9 crash involving a school bus and a Ford F150 pick-up truck. The incident happened on Hwy 210 near Little Pine Trl in Sylvan Township, Cass County. Both vehicles were westbound on Hwy 210.

According to state patrol, the school bus, driven by Andrew Doucette, 21, of Brainerd, was stopped to let students off the bus, when it was rear-ended by the pick-up truck, driven by Scott Hudson, 61, of Motley.

The driver of the bus was not injured, nor were any of the five passengers, listed as Lyssa Adams, 14; Rosa Garcia, 13; Andrew Holmes, 12; Adrian Johnson, 11; Nash Osland, 10. Hudson, the driver of the pick-up, was transported to St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd and treated for non-life threatening injuries.

Snow and ice were factors as well in the Jan. 7 crash in Motley Township, near Hwy 10 and 38th St. The incident happened at approximately 4:30 p.m.

According to state patrol, a Ford truck driven by 20-year-old Alicia Goltz of Motley was eastbound on 385th St.; and a Peterbilt Conventional semi pulling a Vanguard trailer, driven by Danny Cooks, 37,

of Jacksonville, Fla., was southbound on Hwy 10. The Ford pulled onto Hwy 10 and was struck broadside by the semi.

Goltz was transported to Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples and treated for non-life threatening injuries. Cooks was not injured. Both vehicles were towed from the scene. Assisting agencies included the Randall Police, Motley Fire & Rescue; and the Morrison County Sheriff's Office.

On Jan. 6, the state patrol responded to a two-vehicle crash at Hwy 210 west of West Sylvan Dr. SW in Sylvan Township. According to their report, a Dodge Neon, driven by Francine Alt, 33, of Motley, was eastbound on Hwy 210 and attempting to turn, when it was struck from behind by a Chevy Malibu, driven by Steven Tressler, 27, of Staples.

The incident occurred at approximately 6 p.m. and road conditions were dry, the state patrol said.

Alt and her passengers, Jason Coventry, 35; and Peyton Coventry, 10, both of Motley, were transported to Essentia Health - St. Joseph's Medical Center in Brainerd and treated for non-life threatening injuries. No injuries were reported for Tressler, or his passengers, Kirsti Gottfried, 26; and Elijah Tressler, two, both of Staples.

Pillager Fire Department were responders at the scene. Alcohol was not a factor, state patrol said.

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Hustle plays

Jack Fietek, above, and Max Giza track down rebounds in the team's win against Royalton. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Smith, Fietek star in win

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

Gavin Smith and Jack Fietek led the Staples-Motley boys basketball team to a 61-46 win over Royalton on Jan. 6, with Smith scoring 35 points and Fietek pulling down 13 rebounds. Coach Micheal Poncelet called the two players the “difference makers” in the game. “We had the two hardest working kids on the floor and it allowed us to come out with a win,” said Poncelet. “Royalton is a scrappy team that is tough to score on. Good teams don’t score a lot of points against them.” The game started with Royalton hitting three

pointers to take a 9-4 lead. The Cardinals came back and took a six point lead by halftime. In the second half, Royalton brought the game back to a tie when Smith scored ten straight points, including two steals that he took the other way for scores, and Staples-Motley never trailed again. Smith added 10 rebounds, eight steals and four assists. Fietek scored nine points and helped lead the team’s pressing defense. **Team results** Scoring: Gavin Smith 35, Jack Fietek 9, Mason Rychner 5, Derek Kennedy 5, Trey Skeesick 2, Hunter Carlson 2, Josh Lombard 2, Isaiah Ross-Bahn 1

New faces for wrestling team

The Staples-Motley wrestling team competed with a depleted lineup at the Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa Invitational on Jan. 6. Illness and injuries allowed a few wrestlers to get their first varsity experience and others had their first varsity win. Two Cardinals made it to the finals, Spencer Miller was second at 120 pounds and Alex Erpelding scored three pins in winning the 182 pound bracket. Staples-Motley placed last in the eight team tournament and will try to get

healthy for the upcoming schedule. **Team results** Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa Invitational Staples-Motley results 106 Payton Bjerga 0-2; 113 Brayden Christensen 1-2; 120 Spencer Miller 2-1, 2nd place; 126 Blayne Dumproe 1-2; 132 Mason Nyhus 0-2; 138 Matt Miller 0-2; 145 Cade Schmidt 1-2; 152 James Ehresman 0-2; 160 Jonathan Lisson 1-2; 170 Isaac Swensrud 0-2; 182 Alex Erpelding 3-0, 1st place; 195 Shane Guggenberger 0-2; 220 none; 285 Nathaniell Rodrigues 0-2

Thursday Twilight League Bowling			
Wadena Lanes		High Team Game-	
JANUARY 5, 2017		Staples Vet. Clinic 603	
1. Spectrum Marketing	22-10	High Ind. Series/ High Games	
2. Ted and Gen's	21-11	Tia Freitag	588 221-200
3. Mason Bros.	20-12	Marge Harrison	526 195
4. Staples Vet Clinic	14.5-17.5	Jackie Perius	487 200-165
5. Lefty's	13.5-18.5	Judy Tiede	486 186
6. Ghost Team	5-27	Gail Judd	463
High Team Series-		Betty Klingaman	177
Staples Vet Clinic 1666		Corlie Carter	161
		Lori Murdock	155

Cardinals learn how to come back after slow starts

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team was unable to come back after a slow start against Fergus Falls on Jan. 3, losing 50-45. They had another slow start Jan. 5 but turned it around to beat Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 48-36. Against Fergus Falls, the Cardinals fell behind early after their defense al-

lowed open three pointers. “We did not come ready to play for our 1st game in 2017,” said Coach Craig Wolhowe. “We were not mentally or physically sharp.” The deficit continued most of the game, and Staples Motley was down 41-25 with seven minutes left in the game. At that point they went on a 20-9 run to finish the game and had a couple of shots at the end

that would have made it a one possession game. “I keep telling the kids we are a good team when we play hard,” said Wolhowe, “we need to play hard the whole game.” Kelsie Weite had 20 points and 12 rebounds. Against Long Prairie, the Cardinals had another slow start when they struggled against a matchup zone. The team started clicking in the second half.

“We started attacking them and it created good things,” said Wolhowe. **Team results** Staples-Motley 45, Fergus Falls 50 Scoring: Kelsie Weite 20, Claire Wolhowe 17, Amber Robben 8 Staples-Motley 48, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 36 Scoring: Wolhowe 20, Weite 13, Robben 5, Ashley Smith 3, Kaitlyn Longworth 3, Chelsea Nanik 2, Sam Schimpp 2



Pass in traffic

Sam Schimpp gets the ball to a teammate in the lane. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Looking for the shot

Ashley Smith eyes the basket. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Is it time to end deer farming?

It came as a very much-unwanted present just after Christmas when the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that chronic wasting disease (CWD) had been found in two deer in a captive herd on a game farm in North Central Minnesota’s Crow Wing County. CWD is a fatal disease of the brain and nervous system that attacks members of the deer family, including whitetail and mule deer, elk, and moose. In its effects CWD is similar – actually related – to “mad cow disease” in cattle. The fear flowing from this latest news is that the disease could, if it has not already, spread to wild deer in the area where this Crow Wing County deer farm is located. **- O -** *Inside the Outdoors*



Mike Rahn

- O - CWD is spread by contact with an infected animal’s saliva, urine, blood and feces. Conditions that concentrate deer, such as confining deer within fences, or even recreational and well-intentioned “helping Nature” deer feeding, increase the risk of the disease being transmitted from infected to healthy deer. Beyond CWD’s obvious potential for depleting a deer population due to disease-caused mortality, lies the question of human safety for those who might eat venison from an infected animal. The ambiguity in official statements is less than comforting. It is often stated that CWD is “not known to affect humans, but consuming meat from infected deer is not advised.” In plain English this means that a human probably won’t be affected, but we can’t be sure. The DNR is currently waging a high-stakes battle to keep CWD out of Minnesota’s whitetail deer herd. CWD has become common in deer in Southwest Wisconsin and Northeast Iowa, areas that border Southeast Minnesota, the triangular area of our state bounded by the Mississippi River and the Iowa border. Among the precautions being taken, Minnesotans who hunt deer outside our state are prohibited from bringing unprocessed deer into Minnesota. Just this fall, three wild deer harvested by hunters near Lanesboro in that Southeast region were tested and found to have CWD. The first two were harvested within a mile of one another; the third, just five miles

away. This area is south and east of Pine Island, where Minnesota’s first confirmed CWD-infected wild whitetail was harvested in 2010, not far from an elk farm where the disease had previously been confirmed in 2009. More than 4,000 deer harvested in that area between 2011 and 2013 seasons were tested, but no more were found to carry CWD. Until now, that is. With these three new cases during the 2016 hunting season, the management response is a localized “kill-down” of deer in that area. The goal is to harvest and test up to 900 deer in Fillmore County through a special post-season hunt during the first weeks of January. One purpose is to learn whether other wild deer there are infected. And, by lowering the density of deer there, the chance of deer-to-deer contact that could spread the disease may be further reduced. Live deer cannot be tested for CWD, so there is no way to test, then release whitetails, even if they could be captured without injury. CWD is now found in 24 states. Its actual origin in wild big game animals will probably never be proven. CWD has had an identity as a “western disease,” but its dispersal today is north to south, east to west. In a substantial number of states it was first diagnosed in captive big game herds; in some states only in captive herds. But operators of such enterprises will probably argue that discovery in captive herds is easier because in some states – like Minnesota – they are closely regulated, including mandatory testing of deer that die or are slaughtered. And, in CWD’s advanced stages, its effects are highly visible. The deer farming operation in Crow Wing County where the two infected deer were discovered is under quarantine. No animals from its herd of whitetail and mule deer can be shipped from the farm, and none from outside may be received. The five captive big game farms in Minnesota where CWD has previously been found have had their herds “put down.” That includes a herd in Aitkin County in 2002, the very first discovery of CWD in any big game animal in Minnesota. It has yet to be announced whether elimination will be the fate of the Crow Wing County herd. Perhaps not widely known, the DNR does not regulate captive big game. That is done by the State Board of Animal Health. In the five instances of herd liquidation noted above, the owners were reportedly

compensated up to \$3,000 per animal. Whether that sits well or poorly with taxpayers, there’s no question that the animals are valuable. Captive deer are raised for venison, for their antlers and for breeding. There are other, perhaps less obvious, purposes. A game farm in Cass County marketed a deer-attractant scent extracted from its animals. Another purpose for farm-raised big game that some may find unsavory is being “hunted” on private shooting preserves in states that allow it. A close friend tells of stopping at a captive deer farm to purchase deer scent, and being shown one of the owner’s prize trophy-antlered bucks. The owner informed him that it was “worth \$25,000,” and bound for Texas, there to join a herd assembled for pay-to-hunt patrons; perhaps ultimately to be immortalized as a head mount in a den, or over a fireplace. Hunting pen-raised game birds on shooting preserves is widespread in Minnesota, but hunting pen-raised deer is not permitted; many feel rightfully so. It’s too easy, as well as unprofitable, to place the blame entirely on captive big game farmers. The mission to control the spread of CWD in Minnesota should be about prevention, not blame. Captive big game animals, unlike their wild peers, may move many hundreds of miles from one game farm to another, under man’s power rather than their own. The conditions under which captive big game are raised are conducive to the spread of CWD. Wild whitetails may have a population density of 25 per square mile in parts of Minnesota. Deer and elk on captive game farms live in cattle-like densities, and frequent contact with one another is a much, much higher probability. It’s that close contact that most effectively spreads CWD. Since deer can’t be tested for CWD while alive, the disease’s control is a matter of creating the best possible odds, not managing at a micro level with individual animals. The two most dangerous variables for CWD spread, long-distance mobility and close contact, are conditions of the captive game farm industry, not the deer’s natural environment. There are currently over 400 facilities in Minnesota that have captive deer, elk or both. Perhaps there should be a moratorium on granting permits for any more. Radical as it may sound, perhaps even a buyout of existing big game farms, to limit one potential vector in the unwanted spread of CWD to Minnesota’s signature big game animal, the whitetail deer.