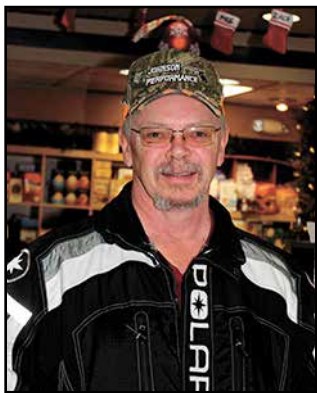




Janet Greig



Terry Andrie



Amber Wiegele



Judy Wogan



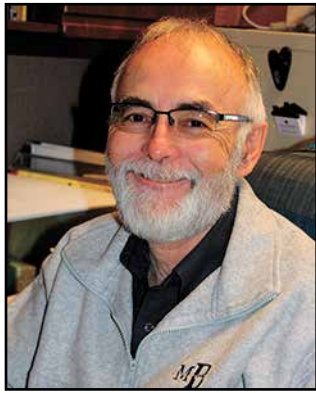
Abby Holmer and Hunter Hines



Kaleb Dahlvang



Melanie Roth



Jerry Reck



Dennis Hanson



Sally Mathewson



Angie Goff

Hello, Readers,
Hypnotism is a complex subject, one that has the distinction of being primarily associated with two very distinct demographics: stage magicians and psychologists. Yes, they're very distinct groups that use hypnotism in vastly different manners. Hypnotism itself is a technique through which one can access the subconscious mind. This has led to a popular, fearful perception about hypnosis and how the hypnotist can possess some power over the person. That is not actually how hypnotism works. What it can do is help people solve problems in their lives, achieve goals, and overcome fears. It can also help in ending addictions. Some research shows that you can successfully quit smoking through hypnosis, though this is less about ending nicotine addiction than it is addressing all of the subconscious issues and hangups that one might have with quitting. You may think of hypnosis as the stuff of magic shows, with anyone under hypnosis being under the power of the hypnotist, but that's not true. World Hypnotism Day exists for people to learn more about hypnotism and all of the positive things that it can achieve.

Time to ring in the new year Area residents share thoughts, dreams for 2018

By Dawn Timbs
 Staples World reporter

The Staples World recently caught up with a few area residents and asked them each three questions pertaining to the new year. Their responses are included below.

Janet Greig, 72, Motley.

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

Playing games with friends and my grandchildren...card games, Skipbo. These games are really simple and you can visit while you play them.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

I think we need more

electricians. I've needed one and no one seems to answer my phone calls.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

My best girlfriend, Shirley Bowels, who died of breast cancer when she was just 39. We grew up together in Motley, but she had since moved to Boulder, Colo.

Terry Andrie, 61, Wadena.

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

Fishing. Anywhere, anything.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

Some type of manufacturing. We need more jobs.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

My fiancée' Jayne, of course.

Amber Wiegele, 33, Motley.

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

I'd love to go on a family vacation. I'd like to see the ocean...I've never seen it. I'm a single mom and I work a lot so there hasn't been a lot of time for vacations.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

I just recently moved

to Motley. I'm originally from Oklahoma but spent some time in Ohio as well. In Ohio, there used to be drive-through convenience stores. One was called 5 Points. It would be great to see something like that here.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

My boyfriend Josh. He's in the military, stationed at Ft. Campbell, Ky.

Judy Wogan, 70, Motley.

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

I'd like to stay home

See **NEW YEAR** on page 7a



Sam Hirsche



Lindsey Hirsche



New year baby born Jan. 1

The first baby born at Lakewood Health System in Staples in 2018 was Ruth Berg of Eagle Bend, pictured with her parents, Heidi and Jason. She was born Jan. 1. Also pictured, from left, Lisa Kajer and Judy Droubie of the PieceMakers Quilt Club, who donated the blanket covering baby Ruth. At right is Lakewood nurse Brynn Hathaway. Ruth has three brothers at home, Jonah, Elijah and Levi. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

SEDA gives Baby STEPs a year's lease

By Mark Anderson
 News Editor

At their Dec. 26 board meeting the Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) approved another year of leasing their commercial incubator building to the Baby STEPs thrift store.

Staples Economic Development Director Melissa Radermacher told the SEDA board that Baby STEPs still is interested in purchasing the building but is requesting one more year of reduced rate rent. The store is one of the programs for STEP, which provides programs and services for adults with disabilities. They also run the STEP (former Thread Shed) store in Staples on 5th St NE. STEP stands for Supporting, Teaching, and Empowering People.

Radermacher said the original deal was for the store to operate under a reduced rate lease, then decide whether to pur-

chase the building or to start paying a lease closer to the market rate. She said they asked to extend that deal one more year.

Baby STEPs has taken over building maintenance and has made some upgrades to the building, which Radermacher said was a good sign that they want to purchase the building.

Board member Chris Etzler raised the question of how long the process should take, but the rest of the board seemed okay with a one year extension.

Board member Doug Case said it might be better to have a tax paying business in the building. As a non-profit, Baby STEPs does not pay property taxes on the building.

The board approved the one year extension unanimously.

The SEDA board also approved extending their lease to Lakewood Health System to rent space in the

See **SEDA** on page 3a

Local support helps pass tobacco ordinance

By Mark Anderson, News Editor

The Staples City Council approved the second reading of a new tobacco ordinance that includes e-cigarettes, vaping and other delivery devices.

Mayor Chris Etzler said the council received feedback from many places, but the only opposition was from outside of the community. Etzler said the people who were against the ordinance didn't know that it was just a sampling ban, not a full ban. The new delivery devices are still legal to sell, but are now in the same classification as tobacco products and tobacco laws.

Health professionals in the community were at the meeting to support the ordinance. Alicia Baumann of Lakewood Health System told the

council about the organization's support of such a measure, citing health care costs associated with smoking. Lakewood CEO Tim Rice was also in the audience for support.

Baumann praised the council for considering community health in the ordinance and said "we look forward to ongoing conversations about how to incorporate health into all policies."

Park and Rec position

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said they are offering the Parks and Recreation Director position to Tricia Jasmer, who is currently in the position on an interim basis. He said they had eight applicants for the job, interviewed four of them and determined that Jasmer was the most qualified.

In other news, the council

- Approved the conditional use permit for underground storage of gasoline and fuel for Casey's General Stores.
- Approved the ordinance to vacate alley where Casey's plans to build a convenience store and gas station.
- Approved the sale of property at 705 Oak Ave. SE, which is scheduled to be torn down to make room for a Habitat For Humanity house.
- Approved a bingo and raffle request for Sacred Heart Church.
- Approved a pawnbrokers license for Like-Nu-Pawn.
- Approved the Staples Community Center as polling place for 2018 elections.

Public Notices
 Tobacco ordinance: **4B**

Obituaries
 Christopher DeGeest
 Marie Goff
 Florian Schmidt



Thank you for subscribing!



Learning can be fun

In recognition of Computer Science Education Week, the Staples Public Library offered a four-day coding program for children, utilizing a variety of games and craft ideas that teach coding. Pictured above Dec. 28, playing a game of Robot Turtles are, from left, Library Assistant Angie Johnson, Matthew Jewison, Jaden Johnson, Walker Johnson. Below, Jasmine Isley and Michael Jewison play a game of Battleship, as Library Assistant Melissa Jewison looks on. Internet stations were also available during the week for learning coding programs and online games. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



No injuries in shots fired; arrests made in Browerville

On Dec. 29, the Morrison County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of shots fired at a residence in Swanville Township. Investigators from the Morrison County Sheriff's Dept. responded to the scene and spoke to witnesses present. No one inside the residence was injured. Investigators located a window that had been shot from outside the home and were advised by witnesses that four individuals left the scene in a Chevy Impala. One of the suspects was later located in the city of Flensburg.

Through the course of the investigation, investigators located the suspect vehicle in the city of Browerville, in Todd County. A

search warrant for the residence in Browerville was obtained for 30940 Hwy 71. The Morrison County SWAT Team was activated and responded to the residence. Other individuals who were not associated with the shooting were present inside the residence and were arrested for possession of methamphetamine.

The following suspects were arrested by The Morrison County Sheriff's Dept. and are awaiting formal charges stemming from the shooting incident:

Shawn Steffansen, 36, Taylor; Anthony Pistachio, 49, Iona; and Ashley Richardson, 30, Iona.

The Todd County Sher-

iff's Dept. took two individuals into custody for controlled substance offenses: William Giroux, 36, St. Cloud, and Kayla Pistachio-Fuller, 27, Iona.

Pistachio-Fuller will also face charges connected to the shooting.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office believes that this was an isolated incident and there's no known danger to the public. An active investigation continues.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the Todd County Sheriff's Office, the Little Falls Police Department and the Browerville Fire Rescue and Ambulance Service.

Life's biggest lessons is Think-Off topic

An entrepreneur's new business fails. A 7th grader receives the "most valuable player" award for basketball. A recovering addict fails to abstain. A singer auditions for and wins a role on Broadway. Everyone experiences some successes and some failures, but which has the greater effect on a life?

Some people bounce back from failure, some don't. Some people are so successful it seems like they've never experienced failure and vice versa. How humans respond to success and failure is the question put forth by the 2018 Great American Think-Off:

"Which plays a larger role in shaping one's life: success or failure?"

This is the 26th annual Think-Off question - a classic philosophical quandary

meant to inspire thinkers from all walks of life. Did winning push you harder to be your best? Or did losing motivate continued growth to overcome?

The Great American Think-Off is an essay and debate competition held each year in tiny New York Mills (population 1,227). This year marks the 26th year of the contest, which is free to enter and open to anyone, and has received entries from all 50 states and a number of international countries throughout its history.

To enter, submit a 750 word essay by April 1, 2018. Four finalists will be selected to receive \$500 each, plus travel expenses and a chance to win the title of America's Greatest Thinker at this year's annual debate held on

June 9 in New York Mills.

Essays can be submitted online at www.think-off.org, by email to info@think-off.org, or by mail to Great American Think-Off, c/o Cultural Center, P.O. Box 246, New York Mills, MN 56567. Finalists will be announced May 1.

The process for determining the annual Think-Off question is never an easy one, and typically, the committee tries to avoid trendy cultural questions, looking for more timeless philosophical topics; this year they have found just such a topic. Now the committee eagerly awaits the public's response through essay submissions.

For contest details and more information, visit www.think-off.org or call the Cultural Center at 218-385-3339.

More raises . . . raise questions for Todd Cty.

By Karin Nauber
Todd County reporter

Being significantly out of market is a problem for two of Todd County's department heads - the Health and Human Services Director and the Public Works Director.

To resolve this issue, the Todd County Commissioners voted to approve market grade overrides for both positions at their Dec. 28 meeting.

Prior to that approval the discussion indicated that for HHS Director Jackie Och's position, Och is about 15 percent under market.

The board action stated, in part:

"The Personnel Committee and Human Resource Department became aware the Health and Human Services Director for Todd County is significantly out of market. The Human Resource Department worked with the Health and Human Services Director to ensure the position description was accurate and submitted it for review and possible grade adjustment with Springsted. The position grade was not adjusted.

"In talking with Springsted the maximum number of points has been provided for this position. They did note the position is significantly out of market and recommended a market grade override in order to adjust for the lower pay scale Todd County currently has in place.

"Todd County would have a difficult time hiring the position with the same qualifications and experience if we were to have to hire in the market for this position.

"The Personnel Committee has recommended a market grade override and a move of the position Grade from 18 to 19 and placement at Step 7."

The increase will be effective Jan. 7, 2018, and amounts to a \$1.39 increase per hour.

This will put the HHS Director position at \$49.05. The position currently pays \$47.66 and is a three percent increase, according to County Coordinator Joe Hatch (via e-mail after the meeting).

Along with the 2.5 percent increase that was approved across the board, the HHS Director position received a 5.5 percent increase from 2017 to 2018.

Many questions were raised related to the increase.

Hatch told the commissioners that these increases (for the HHS Director and Public Works Director) would get them closer to market. He said that the increases were in the budget.

Commissioner David Kircher asked if the personnel committee had made this recommendation.

Hatch said that the board actions had been reviewed by the personnel committee and was recommended.

Commissioner Barb Becker stated that at their meeting on Dec. 19, they discussed having work sessions to look at how they made salary adjustments

and using different criteria for comparisons.

Hatch said that they had and that he would be looking at better comparisons and using the data to figure out where they are in the market and see if they need to make changes.

"I do believe the HHS Director and Public Works Director will still be significantly under market (even with the increases)," said Hatch.

In a telephone conversation after the meeting, Hatch said both positions salaries will still be around 10 percent under market.

The challenge was making sure the pay was equitable to the market and internally which neither measure is at this time.

"We will get closer with this, but it's not perfect," said Hatch.

"We need to come up with a consistent way to come up with salary increases," said Kircher.

He suggested that some of the criteria might include tenure, education and experience.

He added that market could be another one, but that he was "nervous" about that as Todd County is a small county in the midst of larger ones.

Commissioner Randy Neumann said he had given Hatch a list of counties that were similar size. He also mentioned that very few counties of similar size had the combination position of social services director and public health director rolled into one.

He said that the combining of the position was supposed to save them money, but that he had not seen any reports on whether it saved any money.

"How can we support something if we don't know?" questioned Neumann.

Hatch said they will need to compare with other rural counties and will make adjustments when they can.

Kircher pointed out that Morrison County recently combined their social services and public health departments.

The grade and step increase for the Public Works Director position generated less discussion. It was approved at a total of an 11.5 percent increase or a \$4.12 an hour increase. This included the six percent grade raise and three percent step raise along with the 2.5 percent Cost of Living Allowance.

The Public Works Director current hourly rate is \$44.93 and is moving to \$49.05.

This was not the original action which only included a \$2.69 per hour increase. However, Kircher moved that the Public Works Director position be at the same grade and step as the HHS Director.

The action that the board approved was similar to the previous one with this change:

"The Personnel Committee and Human Resource Department became aware the Public Works Director for Todd County is significantly out of market. In fact the position is the lowest paid in the State of Minnesota."

The increase will take effect Jan. 7, 2018.

Kircher asked again if

this increase, was in the budget.

Hatch said it was.

Prior to the meeting, Och and this reporter were talking and she said that the increases were about equity in the position and that it was not about the person in the position, but about the position itself.

In other business:

- Approved the Hands of Hope lease agreement for 2018 for office space in the Main Street Government Center at a cost of \$4,000 annually plus reimbursements for the telephone and network connection. They have been in this space since September of 2015.

- Approved the designation of the following polling place for the Todd County Absentee Precinct and the City of Swanville's Mail Ballot Precinct for elections conducted in 2018 to be: Todd County Auditor-Treasurer's Office at 215 1st Ave S, Suite 201, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

Gaida explained that one parcel located in the City of Swanville had been annexed into Todd County.

- Approved the transfer of funds from the General Fund to the ditch fund for work on County Ditch 18. The repair project will be completed in 2017 and 2018.

The County Ditch 18 Fund lacks sufficient funds to pay the project expenses and special assessments will be collected in future years to reimburse these expenses. A total of \$300,000 was transferred.

- The board heard a brief presentation from Tri-County Hospital Ambulance Director Mike Ittner, regarding the "Stop the Bleed" nationwide campaign. He presented the county with five kits that will help stop major bleeding.

The idea is that more lives can be saved if major bleeding can be stopped before the professionals arrive.

- Approved the 2018 Solid Waste Enterprise Fund Budget. The budget shows revenues of \$2,128,714 with expenses of \$2,220,003 for a negative of \$91,289. This is better than the 2017 budget which had a negative of \$306,131.

Becker asked about planned purchases.

Transfer Station Supervisor Jeremy Clasemann said that they have a Bobcat and a dozer in the budget.

Neumann said they're hoping to have a new director in place by March 1.

"You've been out there on your own since Mike Hanen passed away," said Neumann.

Hanen was the solid waste director.

- The board approved the AFSCME Health and Human Services tentative union agreement. Highlights of the changes include reducing maximum banked comp hours, health insurance and 2.5 percent general wage increases for 2018-2020.

Hatch said the county had reached agreement with five out of the six unions. He said the LELS Deputies union was going to a scheduled mediation, but he felt confident an agreement would be reached.

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With one of the snowmobile trail groomers

Members of the Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club from the Staples area include, from left, Randy Wilson, Ken Berg and Marv Rothstein. All three have been members for over 25 years. One of the club's large Tucker groomers is based in Wadena. The club will celebrate its 50th anniversary Jan. 13. (Submitted photo)

Trailbreakers to celebrate 50th anniversary in Sebeka Jan. 13

The Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club will celebrate their 50th anniversary with a full day of activities Jan. 13 culminating with an evening banquet at the Sebeka Event Center on U.S. Hwy. 71.

The day will begin with a light lunch provided by the club from 11 a.m.-noon. Trail rides on groomed trails will begin at 12:30 p.m.

One ride will be shorter for the older sleds or anyone who doesn't want to go as far. The other ride will stop in Huntersville and make a loop back to Sebeka. Vintage snowmobiles and newer are invited to ride on either trail ride. Everyone is welcome to join.

There will be a vintage snowmobile show and a display of equipment including some of the early groomers that were used when the trails were first started. There won't be judging or prizes for the show.

The evening banquet will begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by a program at 6:30 p.m. where some of the founding members will be recognized. A Landowners Appreciation Program will also be included.

Brian Nelson will be the special guest speaker. Nelson won the Winnipeg to St. Paul I-500 snowmobile race twice, once on a John Deere and once on an Arctic Cat. He is also the owner of USXC racing. This is a cross country snowmobile racing program that is held in many places in the Midwest.

Other guest speakers are expected.

Everyone is welcome to the banquet. Dinner tickets available by calling in an RSVP to Brad at 218-639-4766 or Mike at 218-255-0162 or Jack at 218-639-5230.

The founding members to be recognized include Donald and Delores Quale (original president), Larry and Judy Huotari, Archie and Joyce Lake, Waino Wierimaa (original vice president), Emil Burgau (original secretary), Clayton Paurus, David Paurus., Raymond Kangas. Robert Hillstrom as an honorary member. He and his wife Jan helped keep the club going through some tough years by maintaining the trails.

The club started Sept. 17, 1967, at the Huntersville Forest Campsite. It began as the Sebeka Trailbreakers Snowmobile Club. Most

area towns had snowmobile clubs in the 1960s and 70's when there were over 100 manufacturers of snowmobiles.

Due to the popular growing sport a few individuals worked hard establishing trails, held races, trail rides, cook outs and regular meetings (which they rode their snowmobiles to each time).

As poor snow conditions and the economy caused manufacturers to close, many clubs did as well. The Trailbreakers continued to groom trails and have meetings throughout those times.

The name was changed in the 1990s to Trailbreakers, Inc., because it now includes all of Wadena County. There are members from every area of the county including Sebeka, Menahga, Huntersville, Wadena, Verndale, Nimrod, Staples and Aldrich. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month in a different area of the county.

The club maintains 204 miles of trails in the county. This also includes two corridor trails that people can ride from one end of the state to the other much like an interstate highway.

The trail system relies

on private property and two state forests. The trails connect with other area club trails so you can actually ride anywhere in the state without having to go off a groomed trail as they all connect. Our trails are also mapped on GPS.

The club has nice equipment consisting of two large Tucker groomers, a smaller groomer, skid steer and equipment for mowing brush and doing trail work. One groomer is based in Wadena and the other in Sebeka. The club also grooms the Wolf Lake trail system including the Smoky Hills.

Wadena County fire

On Dec. 29, 2017, at approximately 9:21 p.m., the Wadena County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call of a report of a chimney fire at a residence in Section 5 of North Germany Township in Wadena County.

When the deputy arrived the house was filled with smoke and flames were visible from the chimney. Fire crews arrived on scene and quickly extinguished the fire and cleared the blockage in the chimney.

The Wadena County Sheriff's Dept. was assisted on the scene by the Sebeka and Menahga Fire Depts, Sebeka Police Dept., MN State Patrol and Tri-County Ambulance.

SEDA
continued from page 1a

Project updates

city's industrial building. Lakewood uses the building to store medical equipment.

Radermacher gave the SEDA updates on other potential projects. She said the market rate apartment proposal is still developing, and they're discussing tax abatement possibilities.

- The city will have \$14,600 in tourism marketing dollars that will go to the LEAP group. The full marketing board still needs to be filled.
- The comprehensive plan group is still meeting, with a recent discussion about rules for annexation of land.
- Filming is completed on the videos about Staples for The Good Life regional brand.
- GiANT Worldwide trainings are still being offered to local businesses and organizations through NJPA.

Early Childhood Coalition ready for new ideas

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The Staples Motley Early Childhood Coalition has implemented many programs to help young children in the area, and are looking for new ideas to expand their coalition.

They will hold their annual meeting on Monday, Jan. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at NJPA in Staples. They invite anyone interested in helping with programs that benefit young children. They will go over their continuing programs, work on new ideas and talk about new partnership options in the community.

The coalition started around 2008, with the goal of improving the lives of infants, toddlers and preschool age kids in the Staples-Motley area. Other coalitions around the state that started around the same time have faded or disbanded, but the Staples-Motley group wants to keep going and expand their group.

Many of their programs have focused on literacy, citing evidence that children who become accustomed to reading early in their lives end up doing better in school and later in life.

They started the Move, Drop and Read program in the elementary schools, where students do fun

activities interspersed with reading time.

The group implemented the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. They partnered with the Staples Library for this program, in which parents were able to record all the books they read with their kids and had a prize for those reaching 1,000 books. The process is now easier, with a smartphone app that can record every book read.

They continue to run the Books in the Park program, with book boxes in area parks where kids can take a book to read for free. Books can be dropped off at Staples-Motley schools to donate to the program.

They also started the Big Equipment Show, which now is put on by Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and the group supports the Junior Dash at the Railroad Days Dash.

One of the new directions for the Staples Motley Early Childhood Coalition is to help daycare providers in the area. There is a shortage of providers around the state and especially in this region, so the coalition wants to find what they need and help them out through trainings or other programs.

For more information about the Staples Motley Early Childhood Coalition, call Lisa Kajer at 218-894-2906.



Family fun time in Motley

Activities from one of the literacy programs started by the Staples Motley Early Childhood Coalition are shown in these photos from last year's 'Move, Drop (Everything) & Read' event at the Motley Family Center Jan. 30, 2017. Pictured at top, Piper Noska walks on a balance beam, with some help from her mom, Kayla Noska and baby brother Drake. Pictured in center, Motley Police Chief Ron Smith reads "Going on a Bear Hunt" to a group of children. In lower photo, Dr. David Freeman reads "Stuck in the Mud" to (from left) Landon Moench, Payton Nelson, Xander Moench. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Patriots at NJPA

Rebecca Cromwell, HR Manager at NJPA and ESGR representative, presents Chris Robinson, NJPA Procurement Manager with the Patriot Award on Dec. 7. Robinson was nominated by Staff Sergeant and NJPA Procurement Lead, James Voelker, right. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Patriot Award given to NJPA's Robinson

NJPA Procurement Manager Chris Robinson was honored for his extraordinary support of Staff Sergeant and NJPA Procurement Lead, James Voelker.

In a small ceremony held at NJPA on Dec. 7, Robinson was presented with the Patriot Award, which recognizes individual supervisors and bosses for their support to the nominating service member and his/her family.

The honor is given by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense program established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members and their civilian employers.

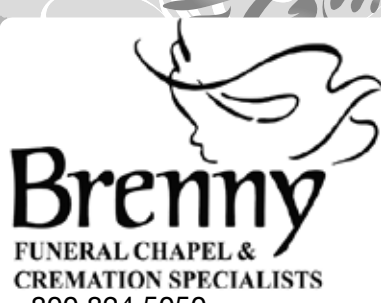
Sergeant Voelker, a 10-year member of the Army National Guard based at Camp Ripley in Little Falls, is the first active reservist to be hired at NJPA. It has been a learning opportunity for the organization - one that has been embraced by all, especially Robinson.

In his nomination to the ESGR, Voelker stated, "Chris has been instrumental in championing the establishment of processes to support my military obligations. With his support, new leave categories were created in the time and attendance system to accurately track my paid and unpaid time off required for military service. Chris has also ensured that state and federal laws and statutes are accounted for in these processes."

Voelker also added, "When last-minute schedule changes come up, Chris has been flexible and understanding. He sees my military career as a value-add to NJPA."

Robinson was pleasantly surprised by the award announcement.

"I'm just excited to have James on the team," Robinson said. "It's a great partnership and link we have with him as part of the Guards. The skills he brings to us from his role with them benefits our organization and we're pleased to support his commitment to the service."



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Lazy person's guide to being a good citizen

By Lata Nott

You sometimes suspect that you're not as well-informed as you should be. When you read about that study that found that middle school kids were unable to distinguish paid advertisements from news stories, you shook your head sadly - then secretly wondered if you would do much better.

You've heard that most people are so entrenched in their own beliefs that even indisputable facts can't change their minds, and would really like to believe you're different from most people. (But doesn't everyone think that?) You have, on at least a couple of occasions, pretended that you were familiar with a subject you actually barely understood.

You are, in other words, a person living in the world. According to the Pew Research Center, 64 percent of Americans say that fabricated news stories have caused them a great deal of confusion about the basic facts of current issues and events. A survey conducted by the Annenberg Public Policy Center found that the majority of Americans are poorly informed about the basic structures of their own government. And this year's State of the First Amendment survey revealed that the majority of Americans prefer news that aligns with their own point of view, demonstrating their firm commitment to their own filter bubbles.

Unsurprisingly, none of this is good for democracy. As Thomas Jefferson said, "An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people."

But enough hand wringing! You don't want to let the ghost of Thomas Jefferson down. You want to be media literate and fair-minded and well-informed. You want to be the kind of person who knows how many congressmen there are and can explain what the electoral college is. You want to be a good citizen. It's on your list of New Year's resolutions, somewhere between "exercise get more" and "floss regularly."

It's not that you're lazy. It's just that you have a job, and loved ones, and a very limited amount of free time.

Or maybe you are just lazy. That's okay too. Regardless - what are you to do? Let's be realistic: You don't need a list of best practices for media literacy and civic engagement. You need a list of good-enough practices. You need the equivalent of those individual floss picks. (To any dentists reading this: I am aware that floss picks are not a perfect substitute for regular dental flossing. But they are a vast improvement over the nothing I was doing before I started using them.)

Get (re)acquainted with civics

Most of us either took

civics a long time ago, or didn't take it at all. If you no longer remember what the branches of the government are, know that you're not alone and that you need not waste time wallowing in shame. There are resources out there for fully-fledged adults!

"Civics 101" is a great podcast if you like listening to things. Khan Academy has an "American Civics" YouTube series if you'd rather watch something. But if you want a crash course in the least amount of time possible, I'd recommend spending a little time skimming the review sheets intended for immigrants studying for their American citizenship exams.

Think about where your news comes from

You probably have your own way of staying up to date with current events, whether it's a newspaper, a TV show, a favorite podcast, or your Twitter feed.

There's no shortage of information in today's world. The challenge is being able to separate the real from the fake, the facts from the opinions, and the Facebook posts from your crazy uncle from the Facebook posts paid for by the Russian government.

As a lazy person, you may balk at the idea of analyzing and fact-checking every story that comes up in your Facebook feed. But becoming a better news consumer can be as simple as asking yourself two questions: Who wrote the thing you just read, and why did they write it?

If you read a story about the amazing anti-aging properties of grapefruit, and then you learn it was written by a spokesman for the National Council on Grapefruits and sponsored by the Grapefruit Farmers of America...well, that should give you pause. It doesn't necessarily mean the story is false, but it does mean you should probably look for a second opinion before buying stock in grapefruits.

Form your own opinions

You don't have to have an opinion on everything, but you will probably want to have an opinion on issues that directly impact you or your loved ones, or on matters that you find interesting. The path of least resistance is to adopt someone else's opinion - to echo what your political party endorses, what your

friends think, or what your favorite writers and TV pundits put forth.

We all do this, often without even being aware that we're doing it. But if it's an issue you really care about, you owe it to yourself to delve a little deeper and come to your own conclusions.

Here's a good "recipe" for forming opinions from writer Kinsey Bluestein:

- At least one "liberal" news source
- At least one "conservative" news source
- At least one international news source (because these tend to write about news from a non-partisan viewpoint)
- Combine and let rest until you have a viewpoint you can defend objectively.

You don't have to have an opinion about everything

Forming your own opinions takes a good amount of your time and mental energy. The only way a lazy person can manage it is by being generally informed about current events, but selective about the things they really stand for.

Otherwise, you'll have no choice but to adopt other peoples' opinions, which is the kind of thing that eventually leads us to take hard, intractable stances on issues we never gave much thought to in the first place.

It's alright to say you don't know enough about a subject to weigh in on it. It's better than alright - in a world where people are constantly pretending to be more knowledgeable than they actually are, it's downright heroic.

If you reach a point where you must form an opinion on something - there's an election coming up, or your friends are asking you to join a movement or protest - see the point above.

Stop sharing links to news stories you haven't read

According to a 2016 study by computer scientists at Columbia University and the French National Institute, 59 percent of links shared on social media are never actually clicked.

Resist the urge. If you're too lazy to read it, then please be too lazy to share it.

Lata Nott is executive director of the First Amendment Center of the Newseum Institute. Contact her via email at lnott@newseum.org, or follow her on Twitter at @LataNott.

Follow Your DREAM

By Salvador Macías

The sunlight came in through the shades, shaking me from my dream. But as a 6-year-old, that just meant Saturday morning cartoons. I sprang up and dashed to the living room. As I turned on the television, there he was - a blue-and-red blur flying across the screen. Soon after, the iconic "S" came into focus: SUPERMAN. By far, my favorite superhero.

I liked him for his abilities. Who wouldn't? He was super-strong and able to fly. But my connection was deeper. He was more than a hero, he was an immigrant who left his home and came to the United States. He left everything and adapted to this new place.

And, best of all, he used this experience to become stronger and protect others, standing for "TRUTH, JUSTICE and the AMERICAN WAY." Leaping from couch to couch in pajamas, I dreamed of one day being able to protect people, too; I dreamed of growing into someone loved in America.

I outgrew my pajamas, but never quite outgrew my hunger for leadership. That is why four years later my dream was to become President of the United States.

One day, in fourth grade, my teacher opened our civics class to talk about the requirements for the presidency. There was no kid

more eager. I took out my notebook and prepared to plan my future. She began by writing on the board, "Must be at least 35 years of age." One day I'll be older; check. Next: "Must have lived in the United States for at least 14 years." I will have lived in the country for 31 years by then; check. Finally, "Must be a natural-born citizen of the U.S."

With that, my world came crashing down.

My whole life I was told you can do anything you set your mind to. And now, over something I had no control over - where I was born, I was being denied my dream.

My teacher continued with the unofficial requirements, saying a president should also go to college and asked who among us would do that. Oops. She pulled me aside and asked why I felt it was beyond me, to which I said, "I'm undocumented."

Understanding the pain I must have felt, she asked why I wanted to be president?" I said, "I want to make a difference in my community, like Martin Luther King." She smiled and pointed out that he wasn't a past-president. I countered: "Well, like Cesar Chavez." Again, she smiled and corrected me. That's when I realized, my dream was not to become president; my dream is to make a positive impact in my community. I want to

interpret the law, not be a victim of it.

Thankfully, I did find a way to go to college, when back then it seemed impossible. I had to pay three times the tuition my classmates did, and couldn't apply for most scholarships. I was unable to qualify for loans, and unable to work.

Then, a miracle occurred.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was created and brought me out of the shadows. It could work enough to make me feel free of fear of deportation. Thanks to this program, I followed my dream, went to law school, graduated and passed the Arizona Bar exam. The lesson of understanding the law that I learned in fourth grade became the engine that drove me.

Nearly 800,000 individuals across the nation have benefited. We have found jobs, reached for higher education and offered help to community resources. While many hoped DACA would remain, I always understood it was merely a band-aid; I always understood that true security can only come through Congress.

We encourage fellow immigrants to use their voices and tell their stories. It's these stories that help lift the veil of misunderstanding.

At times like this, I remember those childhood Saturday mornings, think back to Superman going up against an impeding apocalypse. It wasn't his super strength that saved the day, it was his resolve. It was knowing that he was fighting on the right side.

Dreams can be funny. They begin in a land of make-believe, but with perseverance and grit, they can become objects of reality. I may not be wearing an "S" on my shirt and may not be living in the White House, but my love for this country has led me to fight for my community and its dignity.

Salvador Macías is a J.D. Graduate 2017 from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University.

This article was submitted by American Forum.

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

Fairness: We at Staples World strive conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.

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Public Notices

Eighty percent of people polled believe that governments should be required to publish public notices in newspapers. Keep public notices public.



Chad Lewis presents state's haunted locations

Paranormal researcher and author Chad Lewis will take you on a ghostly journey to some of the most haunted places in Minnesota in a presentation Tuesday, Jan. 9, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Staples

Public Library, 122 6th St. NE, Staples. "Get ready for a scary night of bizarre ghosts, wicked spirits and deadly poltergeists as I have put all of my most haunted cases into one creepy presentation for the

Staples Public Library," Lewis said in his press release. "As the author of numerous books on Minnesota folklore, including 'The Minnesota Road Guide to Haunted Locations,' I have combined all of my research of mysterious Minnesota."

His presentation covers the entire state, from a witch haunting a cemetery near Bertha, to wandering ghosts in the North Woods, to a haunted B&B in Wabasha. From phantom creatures prowling the woods to back road creatures, no place in Minnesota is without its own haunting.

Complete with photos, case histories, eyewitness accounts, ghost lore and directions, this unique presentation encourages you to visit these places for your own ghost story.

There is no charge for this Legacy event for teens and adults.

Find out where you can:

- See possessed statues come to life
- Pick up a vanishing hitchhiker
- Get chased by hellhounds
- Come face to face with dead gangsters
- Spend the night in a cursed hotel
- Many, many more . . .

For over two decades Chad Lewis has traveled the back roads of the world in search of the strange and unusual. From tracking vampires in Transylvania and searching for the elusive monster of Loch Ness to trailing the dangerous Tata Duen-de through remote villages of Belize and searching for ghosts in Ireland's haunted castles, Lewis has scoured the earth in search of the paranormal.

Lewis has been featured in hundreds of radio interviews, TV appearances and newspaper articles including the Discov-

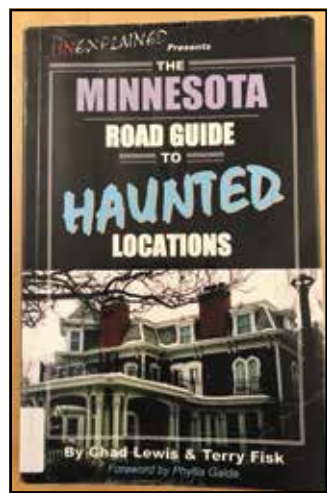


ery Channel's A Haunting, William Shatner's Weird or What, ABC's Scariest Places on Earth, and Monsters and Mysterries in America along with being a frequent contributor on Ripley's Believe it or Not Radio.

He is also the co-author of the Road Guide to Haunted Locations book series which includes Minnesota.

Lewis has authored over 20 books on the supernatural and extensively lectures on his findings. The more bizarre the legend, the more likely it is that you will find him there.

Lewis is a paranormal researcher and author for Unexplained Research. He holds a Master of Science degree in Applied Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Stout.



Paranormal investigator

Angie Johnson, Library Assistant at the Staples Public Library, holds one of the books by Chad Lewis about haunted locations in Minnesota. Lewis will present a program on his research at the library from 6:30-7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 9. He has co-authored Road Guide books for several other states as well as books about gangsters and mysterious creatures. (Staples World photos by Brenda Halvorson)



Public library programs

The Staples Public Library is offering the following programs:

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Enjoy a fun program encouraging reading and early literacy skills. For ages birth to kindergarten. Sign up any time during open hours. Sponsored by Staples Motley Early Childhood Coalition.

D.I.Y. fun activity - 'I Spy' game

Stop in the library in January and February during library hours and try to find all the hidden objects on the "I Spy" board. Each week will be a new game. After searching for each item stop at the desk for a treat.

Lego Builders - Jan. 9

A fun storytime and activities for ages Pre K -2nd grade. Wednesday, Jan. 9 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Registration required. Limit 15. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.

Reading Roundhouse storytime - Jan. 10

A fun storytime and activities for ages Pre K -2nd grade. Wednesday, Jan. 10 from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Registration required. Limit 15. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.

Recycled Sweater Stocking Hat Workshop - Jan. 16

Learn how to turn a sweater into a hat in this class with artist Jen Anfinson Tuesday, Jan. 16, from 6-7 p.m. Attendees will leave with a warm hat for winter. All supplies included, but do bring a sweater if you'd like to turn it into a hat. For teens age 15 to adults. Limit 12. A Legacy event.

Arctic Friends Animal Workshop - Jan. 18

Bring your own arctic friend to life Thursday, Jan. 18, from 4-5 p.m. We will read some fun stories about arctic animals and then each of the children will be able to pick one of

the animals to hand stuff and take home. They will be able to choose between Icee Polar Bear, Frost Snow Leopard, Peppermint Penguin or Snowy Owl. For ages three to eight. Registration is required. Limit 20. Sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library.

For more information on any of the activities contact the library at 218-894-1401.

The Staples Public Library is located at 122 6th St. NE, Staples. Hours: Mon. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tue. 2-8 p.m., Weds. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thurs. 2-8 p.m., Fri. 1-5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Great River Regional Library (GRRL) provides library services for 32 public libraries in Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd and Wright counties. It also provides Central Minnesota residents with nearly one million books, CDs and DVDs, 250 public computers, programming and information services.

MnDOT to start issuing new permit for hauling road construction materials

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is now accepting applications for the new road construction materials permit that goes into effect Jan. 1, 2018.

The permit allows companies and persons hauling road construction materials such as asphalt, concrete, aggregates and recycled road materials to haul up to 90,000 pounds gross vehicle weight on six or more axles and 97,000 pounds gross vehicle weight on seven or more axles. Currently, the gross weight limit for vehicles operating without an overweight permit is 80,000 pounds. Vehicles operating under this permit are required to comply with individual and group axle weight limits and gross weight vehicle limits set by the permit.

Companies and persons hauling road construction materials can start the application process five days before Jan. 1.

Cost for a MnDOT permit is \$300 for six-axle vehicles and \$500 for seven-axle vehicles.

The road construction materials permits MnDOT issues are for use on state roads only. Vehicles operating under this permit may not travel on interstate highways. Local jurisdictions may require similar permits on their roads.

The Minnesota Legislature approved the new annual permit during the 2017 session.

For more information, go to the MnDOT website at www.mndot.gov/cvo/oversize.

School board meeting

The Staples Motley School Board will hold their annual organizational meeting Monday, Jan. 8, at 7 p.m. in the Staples-Motley High School media center.

Agenda items include:

- Election of board chair, vice chair, clerk and treasurer.

- Appoint person to perform duties of the Office of Clerk and Treasurer: recommended by Minnesota School Board Association - Bonnie Madsen, assistant to the Clerk; Jaime Boesen, assistant to the Treasurer.

- Appoint board members to serve on educational committees.
- Designate school attorneys, official depositories, official newspaper, investment of funds, electronic transfers and signature approvals.

- Set board meeting and work session schedule.
- Approve resolution to set school board salaries.

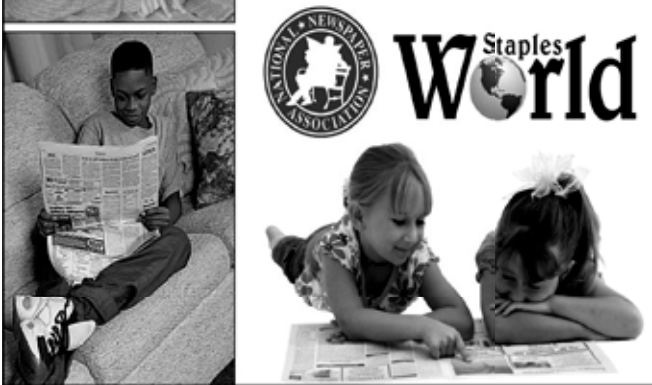


KIDS WHO READ NEWSPAPERS

DO BETTER

Research shows that students who use newspapers in the classroom score better on standardized tests, continue reading into adulthood, have greater civic understanding and are more engaged in their communities.

Higher test scores, improved reading skills, greater civic awareness.



One way to fight the cold

Jim Vollegraaf of Staples didn't let the sub-zero temperatures keep him from getting out and about on Dec. 28. Twenty-nine degrees below zero? No problem for Vollegraaf, who donned his fisher fur hat, winter gloves and coat; and warmed up his insides with a hot cup of java at the local coffee shop. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Staples City Council agenda

The Staples City Council will meet Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE, Staples.

Preliminary agenda items include:

- Designate Staples World as official newspaper.
- Designate official depositories.
- Make board, committee and office appointments.
- Consider appointments to the Staples Economic Development Authority (EDA) Board of Commissioners.
- Approve appointment

of the mayor and city administrator to the Staples Firefighters Relief Association Board of Trustees.

- Approve Tourism Marketing Board Representatives.

- Schedule Community Center planning session for 11 a.m., Jan. 16, at NJPA (National Joint Powers Alliance) conference room 5.

- Hear committee reports from the Public Works Commission and the EDA.
- Open forum.
- City administrator's report.

Mark Your Calendar

January 4

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC, sponsored by Todd County Health & Human Services, Thurs., Jan. 4, Lakewood Health System Sr. Campus, Staples. Call for appt. 320-732-4500.

WIC NUTRITION PROGRAM, sponsored by Todd County Health & Human Services, Thurs., Jan. 4, 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 5 p.m., Lakewood Health System Sr. Campus, Staples. For info., 320-732-4456.

January 9

TODD COUNTY CITIZENS AGAINST DRUGS (CAD) HOSTING 'MEET AND GREET' Tues., Jan. 9, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Central Lakes College, Staples, in the Depot Rm. Bring a lunch. Learn about CAD's work with Todd County youth. For info., email connie.burns@co.todd.mn.us.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE Tues., Jan. 9, noon - 6 p.m., Motley United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., Motley. For info., call 1-800-733-2767. Walk-ins welcome.

January 11

WADENA WHIRLAWAYS SQUARE DANCE CLUB MTG Thurs., Jan. 11, 7:30 - 10 p.m., Wadena VFW. Abe Maier, caller. For info., 218-296-1641.

COZY THEATRE
WADENA, MN

Held Over 2nd Week!
PITCH PERFECT PG-13
Fri. thru Thurs. Jan. 5 - 11
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:15 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:15
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Jan. 6 & 7 at 1:30 pm

Held Over 4th and Final Week!
STAR WARS: THE LAST JEDI PG-13
Fri. thru Thurs. Jan. 5 - 11
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 6:45 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:00
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Jan. 6 & 7 at 1:00 pm

Held Over 3rd Hilarious Week!
JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE PG-13
Fri. thru Thurs. Jan. 5 - 11
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:00 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:10
Matinees Sat. & Sun. Jan. 6 & 7 at 1:15 pm

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- Assembly, 1st Shift; Starting pay \$16.74
- Material Handler, 1st & 2nd Shift; Starting pay \$16.74
- Welding, 1st & 2nd Shift; Starting pay \$21.09
- Press Brake I, 2nd Shift; Starting pay \$21.09
- CNC Operator, 2nd Shift; Starting pay \$21.60
- CNC Laser, 2nd Shift; Starting pay \$21.60

\$1500 sign on bonus for these positions!

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Apply online: www.cnh.com EOE

Avoid Event Conflicts

Check the Events Calendar online at www.staplesworld.com

Submit events to dtimbs@staplesworld.com



Christmas box packing party held at Lincoln Church

Lincoln Evangelical Free Church, Kids' Club and Forge Youth Group packed 192 boxes for Operation Christmas Child this year. Dinner was provided and the groups with their families and leaders all worked hard to get the boxes packed for their journey. The supplies were all provided by families and organizations in the area. Above: The youth and adults pose for a picture with their 192 boxes.

Row 1 (left to right): Harper Amundson, Nikki Cantleberry, Taylor Kavanaugh, Talon Kavanaugh, Madison Pexsa, Quinn Hassler, Eli Pexsa, Corbin Vandermay, Sam Kellendar, Jet Nelson, Josiah Gold, Leah Nelson, Randy Nelson

Row 2: Riley Kramer, Ezra Amundson, Waylon Anderson, Tahlia Craft, Lyric Kavanaugh, Maria Stumbo, Cyrus Kramer, Kaitlyn Cueva, Gabrielle Gold, Jay Nelson, Miranda Harting, Emily Cueva, Zuriyah Krause,

Mason Krause

Row 3: Lois Johnson, Natalie Kramer, Eli Carlson, Dayton Anderson, Jacob Jensen, Rachel Jensen, Elaina Cueva, Cohen Craft, Savanna Hanson, Sofia Bartle, Cody Cueva, Pamela Kovorak, Cami Anderson, Owen Carlson, Tab Erickson, Marco Stumbo, Shawn Misner, Westley Gold, Alex Erickson, Frannie Mackenroth

Row 4: Jenna Reycraft, Kayla Statema, Jeffrey O'Leary, Daniel Bartle, Nicole Statema, Mitchell Statema, Kent Mason, Dylan Rhetts, Lane Jensen, Alec Jensen, Jullianna Kerzman, Hailey Owen, Kali Gold, Ayden Gold, Derek Gold

Row 5: Serenity Driscoll, Cody Dullinger, Erich Pust, Ian Renner, Jasper Kramer, Anna Bloomquist, Elise Jensen, Laura Burnish, Kelly Gelle, Kai Gelle, Maureen O'Conner, Kim Carlson. (Submitted photo)

Obituaries

Christopher DeGeest

Christopher Allen DeGeest, 53, died unexpectedly December 28, 2017, in St. Cloud.

Memorial services will be held Friday, Jan. 5, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Staples. Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the church.

Interment will be at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery near Little Falls. Arrangements are with the Taylor Funeral Home, Staples.

Chris was born December 26, 1964, in Cambridge to Donald and Joan (Terzynski) DeGeest. He was a 1983 graduate of Motley High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army following graduation. He was a member of the National

Guard for over 30 years. He served one year in Iraq in 2009 with the Red Bulls. Chris worked at Camp Ripley and Boys Port Group Home in Brainerd. He married Cory Sue Holmes on May 21, 1988.

Chris is survived by his wife; three daughters, Cassandra DeGeest of Brainerd, Caliena DeGeest of Columbia Heights and Cathleen (Ken) Stack of Brainerd; two grandchildren; parents; six brothers, Gregory, Douglas (Elaine), Jeffrey (Teresa), Timothy and Michael (Kelly) and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Wells and Theresa Wentworth and Joseph and Louise DeGeest.

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Florian Schmidt

Florian Schmidt, 91, of Verndale passed away December 23, 2017, at Tri-County Healthcare in Wadena.

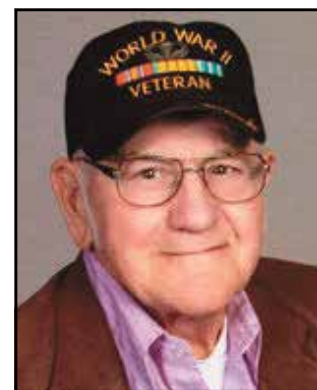
Mass of Christian Burial was held, Dec. 30 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena with Fr. Mitchell Bechtold as celebrant.

Arrangements were with the Schuller Family Funeral Homes, Wadena.

Private interment at the Minnesota State Veteran's Cemetery near Little Falls will be held at a later date.

Florian was born February 3, 1926, to George C. and Barbara (Armbrust) Schmidt in Fayette, Dunn County, North Dakota. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII from Oct. 1944 until his honorable discharge in Nov. 1946. He married Mildred Dukart on Sept. 27, 1949 in Dickinson, ND. Florian worked as a mechanic in Dickinson until 1962, when the family moved to a dairy farm near Verndale. In 1988, he started Schmidt's Small Engine Repair which he owned and operated for 20 years. He served as Commander at the Verndale Legion Post, was a member of the VFW, Knights of Columbus, the Stowe Prairie Township Board and a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Bertha. Florian enjoyed woodworking, feeding the birds and shooting his pellet gun.

He is survived by five sons, Clarence "Clyde"



Schmidt, Virgil (Sandy) Schmidt, Perry (Lyn) Schmidt, all of Verndale, Keith (Pam) Schmidt of Sebeka and Harlan Schmidt of Maple Grove; four daughters, Geraldine (Steve) Cottrell of Frazee, Kathie (Terry) Davis of Ottertail, Marlene (Dale) Campbell of Verndale and Pamela (Jim) Rach of Belgrade; 27 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren; three brothers Andy, Matt and George Schmidt; three sisters Tillie Mullen, Rose Anderson and Jenny Rice; and many friends and his "wonder cat", Tiger.

Florian was preceded in death by his wife; parents; three brothers, Raymond, Jerome and Philip Schmidt; two sisters, Marion Gulka and Magdalene Schmidt and daughter-in-law, Rita Schmidt.

Memorials are preferred to St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Bertha.

w1c A0006B2018JAN04

Marie Goff

Marie Irene Goff, 88, of Brainerd, passed away December 28, 2017, at Central Minnesota Senior Care in Brainerd.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Jan. 3, 2018 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Staples with Father Joe Korf officiating.

Interment was at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.

Arrangements were with the Brenny Funeral Chapel, Staples.

Marie was born April 8, 1929, to William and Mary (Heffernon) Plautz, in Wadena. She graduated from Wadena High School. She married Robert Oldenburg in 1949, they had three children. Following his passing in 1963, Marie married Darwin Goff, in 1966. Marie worked as a seamstress. She enjoyed sewing, bird watching, plants, flowers and ceramics.

She is survived by two



daughters, Elizabeth Baier, of Baxter and Susan Thelen, of West Richland, WA; one son, Gerald Oldenburg, of Pillager; one sister, Doc McDonald; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two husbands; four brothers, Louis, John, Charles and James and two sisters, Dolly and Mary Ann.

w1c A0006B2018JAN04

Senior schedule

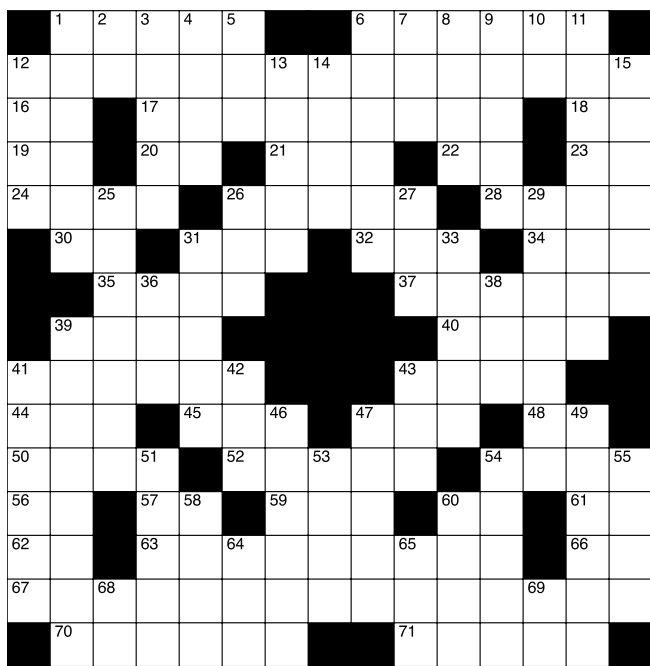
January, 2018 Staples Senior Schedule
Whist: 12:15 p.m. Tues., Jan. 16
Bridge: noon, Jan. 9, 16, 23
Cards, 500: Thurs., Jan. 4; Mon., Jan. 15, 22, 29
Weds., Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31, 11:45 a.m. Meal and

bingo, noon.
Mon., Jan. 8, 12 p.m. Board meeting
Tues., Jan. 9, Birthday/Anniversary party, 11:30 a.m.
Thurs., Jan. 11, 18, 25, Evening meals 5 p.m.
To sign up for Nutrition Site meals, call 218-894-2556.

Staples World photographs available at:
www.staplesworld.dotphoto.com

Crossword Puzzle

Week 1



CLUES ACROSS

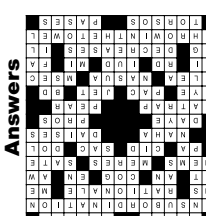
- Put within
- Learned person
- Resistance
- Female title
- Logical basis for a belief
- Of I
- Indicates position
- Article
- Insignificant organizational member
- __ route
- Expression of disapproval
- Microelectromechanical systems
- Ponds
- Satisfy
- Dad
- Spanish soldier "El ___"
- Pouch-like structure
- Obscure unit of measurement
- Okinawa prefecture capital

CLUES DOWN

- The arch of the foot
- Canadian peninsula
- Koran chapters
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Youngster
- Burns
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Valley
- Belongs to sun god
- Platforms
- Jazz singer Irene
- Benefits
- Hellenistic governors
- Brownish-green fruit
- Needed to see
- Political action committee
- Fast plane
- Bahraini dinar
- Urgent request
- Raccoon genus
- Millisecond
- Atlanta rapper
- Rural delivery
- Intrauterine device
- The Wolverine State
- Free agent
- For instance
- Reduces
- Lincoln's state
- Quit
- Midsections
- Bullfighting maneuvers

CLUES ACROSS

- Nickel
- Great in salads
- Leader
- Forced through a sieve
- Entryway
- Support pillars
- Aquatic mammal
- __ Farrow, actress
- Unhappy
- Holds molecules
- Thrifty
- French dynasty
- Scottish port
- Irish militant organization
- Dawn
- Musical group of seven
- Used to fry things
- Carrot's companion
- Rough stone landmarks
- Fourth son of Jacob and Leah
- Goes against
- Passion
- Hard white animal fat
- Soybean pastes
- Beckon
- Mountain and morning are two
- Self-referential
- Data executive
- Retirement plan
- Star Trek character
- Laren
- You and I
- CW181110



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Senior companions

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota recently recognized five Todd County Senior Companions. Senior Companions help frail or isolated seniors to remain living independently. Friendly visiting, errands, medical appointments and grocery shopping as well as respite care are among the services offered.

Volunteers receive a tax free stipend, mileage and training. LSS is a partner with Todd County Health and Human Services. LSS is currently seeking more volunteers to serve older adults in Todd County. Call 1-877-612-6243 to get an application or more information.

From left are Richard Cooper (new, transferred from LSS AmeriCorps), Marjorie Morawczynski (6 years), Sue Stine - Volunteer Leader (8 years) and Eleanor Webster (15 years). Marilyn Gibson (7 years) was unavailable for the photo. (Submitted photo)

Christine Harff hired for patient services

Tri-County Health Care has hired Christine Harff as its new vice president of patient care services, effective Jan. 10, 2018.

The primary function of this position is to lead all patient care service operations to deliver safe, high-quality, patient-centric care. To accomplish this, Harff will work collaboratively with the Tri-County medical staff, board, leaders, staff and volunteers. Her main goal is to provide the best patient outcomes.

Harff received a Bachelor of Nursing from the University of Minnesota; a Master of Business Administration from Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota; and a Juris Doctor from William Mitchell College



Christine Harff

of Law in St. Paul. She is an American College of Healthcare Executives fellow and is a past member of the Minnesota Hospital Association Board.

Harff has worked at Mercy Medical Center North Iowa, Trinity Health System, in Mason City, Iowa, as vice president of network development since 2013. Other past experiences include chief executive officer at Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau, Alaska; chief executive officer at Sanford Medical Center in Thief River Falls; and quality resource director and chief operations officer at Monticello-Big Lake Community Hospital District in Monticello.

Harff attributes her desire to join Tri-County Health Care to the organization's vision of delivering consistent, patient-centered experiences that achieve optimal health for every individual.

"I was extremely impressed that the organization as a whole is working together to treat acute health care events or chronic health conditions and to maintain the health of its communities," she said.

Harff and her husband, Rick, have three adult children. In her free time, she enjoys gardening with her mother, spending time with her family, reading and being on the water. Because of her love of swimming, she is excited to be near resources such as the Maslowski Wellness and Research Center.



Slippery roads

The Staples Police Department and the Staples Fire and Rescue responded to a report of a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Hwy 10 E and 14th St. NE in Staples the afternoon of Dec. 28. According to the report, a 2014 Chevy LLT driven by Amanda Tyrrell of Browerville was eastbound on Hwy 10 when a 1984 Ford pickup truck, driven by Tamar Ford-Mullins of Staples, pulled out in front of her while attempting to cross the highway and she was unable to stop. In the meantime, a passerby (later identified as Karen Lepinski of Wadena) stopped and her vehicle, a 2017 Toyota Prius, was backed into by a Dodge truck driven by Anthony Paskewitz of Staples. Paskewitz then left but the SPD was able to locate him. Paskewitz stated he pulled in behind the crash but didn't know that he struck a vehicle while leaving. He left because a state plow truck was coming up from behind, he said. No injuries were reported. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Local sheriffs join CrimeStoppers

The Todd County Sheriff's Office and Crime Stoppers of Minnesota is working with the Todd and Wadena County Sheriff's offices to gain more crime information from persons wanting to remain anonymous.

Todd County Sheriff Don Asmus and Wadena County Sheriff Mike Carr have made the proactive move to support the Crime Stoppers Law Enforcement Partnership Program which supports Crime Stoppers' ability to have citizens to anonymously turn in information that may save thousands of dollars of investigators' time and speed up the solving of cases.

In addition to staying anonymous, persons giving tips may be eligible to collect up to \$1,000 in reward paid by Crime Stoppers. Because of Crime Stoppers' access tools, the sheriffs' offices are increasing

their reach for investigative information to be statewide and worldwide. Through this partnership, the local investigators receive tips that Crime Stoppers collects because citizens may be reluctant to talk directly with the authorities but still want to 'do the right thing'.

People with knowledge about a crime, criminal or a fugitive can call Crime Stoppers toll free from anywhere in Minnesota (1-800-222-TIPS [8477]); go online at their website www.CrimeStoppersMN.org; or add the free P3 Submit a Tip APP to their smartphone. If the tip leads to a felony arrest the tipster may qualify to receive a reward of up to \$1,000 and still remain anonymous.

For more information visit their website www.CrimeStoppersMN.org.

NEW YEAR continued from page 1a

Respondents consider fun activities, business options and special dinner date

more and just have time for 'me.' On Jan. 17, it will have been a whole year that I have not had health problems, so I'm looking forward to a healthy year. Four major surgeries have taken a toll on me.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

Some sort of industry... something that pays more than \$7 an hour. We don't need anymore gas stations.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

My best friend Cal. We always have so much fun together listening to old-time stories on the radio like the Johnny Dollar mysteries.

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

Fishing, golfing...supporting the arts in Minnesota, such as going to plays.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

We need a rec area or community center. Some place that has a basketball court...dance studio.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

Zac Efron, the actor. But, of course, my boyfriend Hunter (Hines).

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

I'd like to compete at more rodeos. I ride bulls.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

More rodeo practice arenas.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

Carrie Underwood.

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

Ice fishing. In fact, I'm heading out to the lake right now.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

Taco Bell.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

My fiancee', Karlee.

Melanie Roth, 45, Sebeka (works in Staples).

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

I'd like to go on vacation to Florida, especially this week (with sub-zero temperatures).

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

Better restaurants in the area...not just pizza and fast food.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

My family.
Jerry Reck, Staples.

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

Fishing, golfing...supporting the arts in Minnesota, such as going to plays.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

A theatre, bowling alley, or some entertainment center for youth and adults. The town really needs something like this.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

Of course my wife. But, all of my family. We are scattered throughout the U.S., so it's rare that we get to have dinner together.

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

No answer.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

Bowling alley, roller skating rink, show hall. There is nothing here for the kids to do.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

Dennis mentioned that he had just celebrated his birthday by sharing a belated Christmas dinner with his grandkids. He couldn't think of anything better than that for New Year's.

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

Fishing and gardening. I haven't been out fishing in five years...it's more about just getting out in the boat and leaving the cell phone in the car.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

A gun shop.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

Sponge Bob (SquarePants).

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

More time with my family...going on adventures. I love road trips...just get in the car and go.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

Anything. I'd love to see the empty spaces in town used. I remember when I was a kid, all of the shopping you could do downtown...like at Batcher's Department Store. It would be great to see Staples become like a Perham.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

My family.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

I'd like to see something go in to the old Batcher building. Maybe a multi-artist (facility)...pottery, quilting, woodworking. Something like the Franklin Arts Center in Brainerd.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

It's a toss-up...Sam Elliott or Carl Sagan.

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

I'd like to explore more of Minnesota. Take more time for myself.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

We need something fun for kids...a roller-skating rink, arcade.

IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

My son Alan who died last year on Jan. 13.

WHAT FUN THINGS DO YOU WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME DOING IN 2018?

Ride horse, go snowmobiling...play Wii on rainy days.

WHAT NEW BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COME TO OUR COMMUNITY?

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IF YOU COULD SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER WITH ANYONE REAL OR FICTIONAL... PAST OR PRESENT, WHO WOULD IT BE?

My family.

One watershed - one plan will come at a cost

By Karin Nauber
Todd County reporter

One Watershed - One Plan.

On the surface it sounds like it might be a good idea, but in the murky depths, there is more work and cost at the local level as the vision of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is reviewed.

At their Dec. 19 work session, the Todd County Board of Commissioners heard a brief overview of the program from Planning and Zoning/Soil and Water Conservation District Division Director Tim Stieber.

He said that with the passage of the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment, the number of grants that the state was overseeing grew monumentally and they want to now eliminate some of that.

The One Watershed - One Plan program is to "align local water planning with state strategies on major watershed boundaries towards prioritized, targeted and measurable implementation plans."

If that sounds a bit confusing, it is, but Stieber simplified it through a presentation.

He said that they'll prioritize areas to focus on where the implementation matters the most.

They will target practices within those prioritized areas for "on-the-ground" action based on sound science.

Finally, they'll produce measurable results that can show the pace of progress being made toward the identified goals.

Stieber said the whole state would be covered by the plans.

Locally, the Sauk River Watershed District (SRWD) is a lead in the effort and will receive funding because of their taxing authority.

"But when we get to the Long Prairie Watershed, it will just be done with local resources," said Stieber.

There will be draft work plans put together followed by establishment of a policy committee.

"Input will come through the partnerships that will include lake associations, watersheds, law enforcement, public health (and more)" said Stieber.

"It will be a big deal, but I wish it could've been done cheaper," said Stieber.

The budget for the two year plan is \$204,050 for the Sauk River Watershed.

They have the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) information to use for data to tell them where to go in their planning which is a plus.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency website, "A TMDL establishes the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed in a waterbody and serves as the starting point or planning tool for restoring water quality."

Stieber said that it's getting harder and harder to obtain grants. He hopes to learn enough working with the SRWD on this process so that he can write the grants for the Long Prairie Watershed.

Stieber said much of the things being looked at are already being done, but they'll need a plan.

Commissioner Randy Neumann who attended a recent Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) meeting on this topic, asked, "If the funding (runs out), where's the money going to come from?"

Stieber said it will cost a lot of money, but that allocations are expected to be made to each watershed that has a completed plan.

He added that his department's work will change as they'll be administrators of at least one of the three plans that will cover Todd County.

"BWSR will be adding staff at a tremendous rate if they are giving out these grants because they have to have people to oversee them. They can't keep growing at the state level, but this is how they can get

funds to the local plans," said Stieber.

There will be a Memorandum of Understanding if the county wants to be in on this.

"I don't know if we can 'not' be in on it. It's hard to participate if we are not at the table," said Stieber.

He anticipates things to begin in January 2018.

By working together, it is hoped that the counties, SWCDs, watershed districts, state, federal and other partners will come up with a shared vision and goals.

After Stieber's presentation, Auditor/Treasurer Denise Gaida had a brief discussion on the 2018 committee listing and board protocol.

She said that she wanted to get the listing out early so that the commissioners could plan in advance for committees they might want to serve on.

Coordinator Joe Hatch said that perhaps the work sessions should be held prior to regular board meetings and cover topics that will be discussed during the regular meeting.

Commissioner David Kircher said that was the original intent.

"If we're going to have them, have a topic, not just throw things out there," said Kircher.

Hatch said they could come up with a work session schedule.

Kircher said he would like to see more information shared as the finance committee progresses.

Commissioner Barb Becker said she would like to see the work sessions held a day or two before the meeting so they would have more time to "dig in" to a topic.

Kircher also said that if a commissioner is absent for a work session, they shouldn't hold one because it always leaves someone in the dark.

There were other suggestions about when and where to hold the work sessions.

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	52% NEWSPAPERS <small>17% INTERNET - 5% TELEVISION - 12% RADIO - 8% SOCIAL MEDIA</small>
	LOCAL GOVERNMENT
	49% NEWSPAPERS <small>16% INTERNET - 21% TELEVISION - 6% RADIO - 2% SOCIAL MEDIA</small>
	VOTING DECISIONS
	35% NEWSPAPERS <small>18% INTERNET - 27% TELEVISION - 8% RADIO - 3% SOCIAL MEDIA</small>

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New jackets for Staples-Motley FFA

First International Bank annually provides new official dress jackets for the elected Staples-Motley FFA team. The students recently gathered for a photo at FIB, Staples with bank employees.

Front row, left to right: Molly Lindgren (VP), Kai Gelle (Secretary), Abbie DiGiovanni (Officer at Large). Back: Rylie Rau (Reporter), Kristi Serich, Alison Rob-

ben, Scout Strickland (Sentinel), Rachel Paskewitz (President), Ben Olander (Treasurer), Kerry Lindgren (Advisor), Sarah Gregerson.

"We are proud of the FFA chapter and the accomplishments of its members," said Ashley Seely, FIB Personal Banker III. (Submitted photo)

CAD to survey county students

Todd County Citizens Against Drugs (CAD) is planning to administer a survey to Todd County 7-12 graders in February, the survey will include all four county school districts.

CAD's goal with this survey is to collect data which will guide and strengthen their work throughout the county.

The coalition's current Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant requires CAD to collect specific data every two years on four core measures of substance abuse: past 30 day substance use, perception of risk, peer disapproval and parental disapproval.

SEARCH Institute (search-institute.org) in Minneapolis has designed a survey that will ask these "Four Core Mea-

asures" questions. In addition, the SEARCH survey will include 58 questions that will assess students' strengths and supports ("Developmental Assets"). Developmental Assets are essential for young people's success in school and life. CAD coalition members have also developed several additional questions on substance access and substance use and school/work engagement which will also be included in the survey.

Parents and students will receive information on the survey this month (January). Questions on the survey can be directed to Connie Burns, Health Education Coordinator at 320-732-2221, or connie.burns@co.todd.mn.us.

County denies permit for Amish greenhouse

By Karin Nauber
Todd County reporter

"The Amish are not doing our community any good."

With that statement, so began the public comment part of the Todd County Commissioner's regular meeting Dec. 19.

Citizen Bob Floerke said the Amish were operating their own stores now and how did that help our communities?

He said that looking to the future they had this store and now wanted to open another greenhouse and had no proper paperwork for it.

He added that the Amish kids were driving buggies.

Citizen Doug Pesta spoke next on the issue of public safety relating to Amish buggies which have nothing more than a red lantern on them at night.

"Are they not required to have a slow moving vehicle sign? As a farmer, I can't go out on the road with a

tractor without (one)," said Pesta.

Citizen Janna Floerke said that she felt the Amish were getting away with too much.

"They have two homes on a property and now they have opened the store. They're running it like a Sam's Club. Do they have permits? How can they get away with that? I would like to see that kiboshed," she said.

She asked how many greenhouses were needed in Todd County?

"The Long Prairie greenhouse went under because we can't support the ones we have. Vote no to the greenhouse and move the store into Long Prairie where it should be with proper permitted traffic," she said.

Citizen Ron Hengemuhle said, "By coincidence, the proposed greenhouse is on 40 (acres) I used to farm and several around here have. Then the Amish bought it and

put up several homes and a store appeared."

He said that the Amish are not supporting the community.

"Once these farmsteads go to the Amish it is like a black hole in space - things go in, but nothing comes out," said Hengemuhle.

He added that the ground is no longer agricultural and suggested that the commissioners either zone the property residential or commercial.

"Hit them in their pocket book. It will help you, too. They can fix the roads they tear up," added Hengemuhle.

Citizen Betty Martin said that she agreed there are plenty of nurseries (greenhouses) around.

"And to have the store and a nursery - that just means more traffic on our road (which is a safety issue)," said Martin.

Citizen Gene Gerlach said that what he wanted to say was covered by the others, but added that

there were seven-and-eight year-old Amish children driving their buggies in the middle of the night on the roads with just a little bit of light.

He told the commissioners about his wife who had been hit by an Amish person riding a saddle horse. He said it took out the side window on their car and the horse had to be put down.

He alleges buggies are going in the ditches all the time (in accidents).

Gerlach said that the rules governing the Amish buggies have to come from the commissioners and be enforced by law enforcement.

He said there's a lot of Amish traffic and nothing was being done about it or the safety issue.

"We don't want to kill them (in traffic accidents)," he said.

There was a bit of discussion about Hwy 27 being reconstructed in 2020 with eight foot shoulders.

Commissioner Randy Neumann said that the highway patrol has been directed to ticket the Amish if they have no reflective markers on their buggies.

One of the prior speakers said that part of the problem on Hwy 27 is that the gas tax pays for it and it's being reconstructed because of the Amish, "not because of us."

"We pay. It has to stop. Something has to be done to balance out the tax load," he said.

This conversation was brought about because of a request for a Conditional Use Permit for a greenhouse that had been heard by the Planning Commission Dec. 7, with the recommendation that it be approved with the following conditions:

- A portable toilet be present on the site during the sales season.

- Any expansion in number of greenhouses will require an amendment to CUP.

- All plastic from this site must be disposed of properly off site, no burning.

The CUP was received from Emanuel Byler in rural Long Prairie to establish a greenhouse for seasonal plant sales.

The discussion during the meeting began by Commissioner David Kircher. He inquired of Planning and Zoning Director Tim Stieber if there were many after the fact permits for the Amish.

Stieber said that there were many all over the county for a lot of people - not just the Amish.

Kircher wanted to know if they were penalized the same as everyone else for after the fact permits.

Stieber said that they had few "tools" in the current ordinance, but that if they managed for enforcement and future planning, it would happen.

Commissioner Randy Neumann said that the first time he had heard about the store was last week. He asked if it was permitted.

Stieber said that his department had received a complaint on the store so they went out and took measurements. It was larger than the 15 feet allowed for a home-based business. He said the Amish owners reduced the size so it was allowable as a home-based business without extra permitting from his department.

Commissioner Barb Becker asked what they were selling.

Stieber said it was bulk food goods.

Becker asked, "Don't they need a food license?"

Stieber said he didn't know because that would be a public health question. Health and Human Services Director Jackie Och said that they sell dry goods from the store.

Kircher asked, "So if I want to start a business at my home, I don't need a permit?"

Stieber said that it depends on the type of business and the size, but there's no specific permit for a home-based business.

Kircher asked about putting a sign out.

Stieber said that if you put a sign out, that triggers the CUP need.

He said you could have a barn on your property, but once you started renting it out commercially for storage, then you needed a permit.

He said that home-based businesses often expand.

Chair Rod Erickson said he understood there were no regulations to address the home-based business.

He said that good concerns had been brought up, but that they have no way to handle them.

Kircher said that he traditionally votes "no" on school houses for the Amish because it takes the property off the tax role.

Stieber said this particular property is zoned AF-2 meaning there's no tax implications.

"Our comprehensive plan is pro-businesses. There is no way for us to decide if there is a need for a store. We don't make inferences on if something is necessary," said Stieber.

Erickson said that it was a good goal for them to address these things in the ordinance and for Stieber to make it a high priority.

Stieber said they spend a lot of time to enforce and have to prioritize.

For example, a house had been built three years prior without permitting so that was three years with no tax income.

He said they needed a more efficient system, otherwise the assessors have to drive around and find the houses, buildings, businesses.

"If people aren't paying their fair share, then it's more payments from everyone else," he said.

Becker asked if the Amish collect and pay sales tax.

Stieber said he didn't know.

Becker asked if the land splits were recorded properly.

Stieber said that most are and reminded the board that starting in January 2018, all splits and land transactions will go across his desk so they can see them and make sure the requirements are being met.

He said through this process they can save future landowners a lot of headaches if they do it properly from the start.

Neumann asked regarding the CUP in question for the greenhouse, who would make sure that they follow through and have the portable toilet.

Stieber said that as a condition, they could ask for proof of a contract.

The motion to approve the CUP for the Bylers failed for lack of a second.

A second motion made by Neumann and seconded by Kircher was made to deny the request for a CUP. It was approved to deny the CUP with Erickson casting the only "no" vote.

"I think we're hanging ourselves out there and we need to address this first," said Erickson.

Stieber said it would be good for the board to have grounds for their denial of the CUP.

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49725 COUNTY 83, STAPLES



Cards drop two tourney games

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team started getting back to full health at the Little Falls tournament Dec. 28-29, but they still have some improving to do as they lost both games of the tournament.

The Cardinals fell in the first round, 77-48 to St. Cloud Apollo. The second game was closer but the Cardinals fell to North

Branch 65-48.

Team results

Staples-Motley 48, St. Cloud Apollo 77

Scoring: Claire Wolhowe 13, Kaila Erbe 10, Tabatha Allen 7, Bella Martin 7, Kiara Storry 4, Kiera Dumpprope 3, Janna Dvorak 2, Kaitlyn Smith 2

Staples-Motley 48, North Branch 65

Wolhowe 27, Dumpprope 7, Smith 5, Allen 5, Martin 2, Erbe 1, Storry 1

Second half woes in tourney

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team lost two close games in the Little Falls holiday tournament Dec. 28-29, losing a second half lead against North Branch and falling 72-64, then leading Little Falls in the second game, only to lose on the final basket, 65-64.

The Cardinals played right with both teams, but were only 50 percent on free throws, which hurt them in the end. The team

got valuable experience against big school teams, but came away with two losses.

Team results

Staples-Motley 64, North Branch 72

Scoring: Josh Lombard 25, Chase Davis 12, Griffin Webster 11, Derek Kennedy 9, Max Giza 4, Brayden Losh 3

Staples-Motley 64, Little Falls 65

Scoring: Davis 17, Webster 16, Giza 11, Lombard 10, Losh 6, Kennedy 5

K-3 Basketball Booster program



Third grade boys

The third grade elementary basketball program participants included Areyu Eagletail, Braylin Deleon, Charles Sjimkins, Corben Berg, Daniel Zimmerman, Emmit Djuren, Ethan Honemann, Joey Opelia, Jonathan Faulkner, Joshua Cushing, Josiah Burton, Marquise Poncelet, Preston Pierce and Thomas Johnson (Submitted photo)



Third grade girls

The third grade elementary basketball program participants included Adel Buscho, Avery Killian, Bella Hines, Brooke Bendson, Hannah Cole, Katelyn Schotzko, Lily Davis and Ronnie Noska. (Submitted photo)



Second grade boys

The second grade elementary basketball program participants included Andrew Black, Ashton Nichols, Ayden Hovland, Carsen Sweeney, Hunter Vogt, Jacob Faulkner, Roman Engebretson, Sam Hirschey and Zander Plattner. (Submitted photo)



Second grade girls

The second grade elementary basketball program participants included Chloe Larson, Clara Maros, Brooklyn Winter, Ally Pesola, Brooke Reisenauer, Carolyn Hoppe, Jada Ellingsen, Jaida Holst, Keira Mevissen, Maci Mithun and Sarah Kroll. (Submitted photo)

Adding character to sports

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

Staples-Motley athletes are learning that there are higher goals for sports participants than just winning, there are many other aspects that make up a winning program.

Much of their awareness is coming through programs started by Activities Director Travis VanOverbeke, who was honored by the Minnesota State High School League at this year's Prep Bowl for implementing some of the standards of the MSHSL's Why We Play program.

Two of the programs are intentional leadership opportunities. VanOverbeke hosted the first Mid State Student-Athlete Leadership Summit at NJPA in Staples in December. He also is implementing the Inside Out coaching program with several local coaches.

The Mid State summit invited Mid State Conference sports captains and coaches, and included Long Prairie-Grey Eagle and Wadena-Deer Creek teams. In all, more than 100 athletes and 20 coaches and athletic directors met for the event.

"We had sessions on how to enhance the culture of each team, and to help kids understand their role as captains," said VanOverbeke. "It was about character, culture and purpose."

Staples-Motley High School Principal Mike Schmidt was the keynote speaker. Students also broke up into groups to talk about things that went well beyond sports.

VanOverbeke gave a few examples of the types of questions the captains discussed during the summit: "What is your favor-

ite memory in athletics?," "What items do people procrastinate on?," and "What would you tell your 7th grade you?"

"It was powerful and moving," said VanOverbeke. "But it was really just lesson one, how to change what they can do as captains."

Similar lessons are being taught through the Inside Out program, in which Staples-Motley coaches are meeting monthly to share the progress their teams are making and the purpose of coaching the students. VanOverbeke said the coaches appreciate finding a purpose for their team, and they love talking about what direction to help the team go next.

The next step of the Inside Out program is to let student-athletes participate. VanOverbeke said they may also implement book studies into some of the sports, so the students have a higher level view of the program.

While the programs are relatively new, VanOverbeke believes students are taking notice and working on their leadership skills.

"Winning is important, but the process is most important, it is about character and culture," said VanOverbeke.

As an example, he said this year's football team had some success on the field but finished with more losses than wins. VanOverbeke said they were implementing leadership principles throughout the season and he saw many signs of success. "Our boys learned a lot about each other and we grew with each other," he said.

He saw the same thing already this year during the basketball season when he went into the



Recognition for AD work

Staples-Motley Activities Director Travis VanOverbeke at the Prep Bowl, where he received the Why We Play Leadership Citation Award from the Minnesota State High School League. VanOverbeke is helping the Staples-Motley athletic department start new initiatives for sports leadership, with the Mid State Student-Athlete Leadership Summit and the Inside Out program with Staples-Motley coaches. (Submitted photo)

locker room after a tough loss for the boys team. The team was hurting, but they were still able to talk about the game and find positives. "I was proud of how they reacted, they worked hard and didn't win, but they learned from it," said VanOverbeke.

Students are learning that they are not just leaders on a team, but other students also look to them in class and in the hallways, so they need to be au-

thentic and practice their improvement skills everywhere.

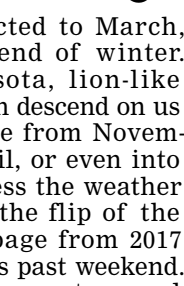
As every sports season has its ups and downs, VanOverbeke envisions students becoming more aware of things they can do to help the team experience. "This is going to grow into something very large," he said. "Our kids have a lot to give, they are soaking this up and I can't wait to see what they do with it."

What 'in like a lion' means for wildlife

The expression "in like a lion, out like a lamb" is closely associated with the arrival of spring. For whatever reason, it seems to be associated with the month of March. Perhaps it's because, in many places, it's a pivotal month in the transition between winter and spring. It meaning - more a wish than a reliable prediction - is that if the weather is wild and awful at the beginning of the month, it will be tame and tolerable at month's end.

Mike Rahn

Inside the Outdoors



Lion-like weather is certainly not restricted to March, or to the end of winter. In Minnesota, lion-like weather can descend on us at any time from November to April, or even into May. Witness the weather attending the flip of the calendar page from 2017 to 2018, this past weekend. Weather forecasters and broadcasters may be inclined to over-emphasize, if not exaggerate, the severity of weather. But the lion-like entry of 2018 certainly brought with it dangers to humans who might be exposed to it and were not prepared.

But what about animals? My daughter, home on holiday break from her out-of-state teaching job, understandably relates more closely to creatures like our Labrador retriever, who on Saturday evening was making a nuisance of herself with the frequency of her whining to be let out into the backyard. The "mercury" was dropping steadily (for those who still have old-fashioned thermometers), and was expected to hit an actual nighttime low of 25 below zero, or colder.

"Can dogs die outside in this weather?" she asked. To which I responded with

the importance of suitable coat, adequate nutrition, and shelter, all factors in the survival equation. The next logical extension is to those creatures that don't have humans to feed and shelter them. All creatures, human and otherwise, survive by maintaining a balance of energy intake - food - and energy consumed. Having mastered the ability to keep ourselves sheltered and warm, and to store up food reserves in our pantries and freezers, humans have the luxury of dramatically skewing the energy intake equation; which is why there's a thriving market for health club memberships and diet programs.

Not so for most wildlife. Most wild creatures live "hand-to-mouth," or day-to-day, unless they're among the limited number - like the gray jay of canoe country, also known as the "whisky jack" - that store or cache food for later use. Songbirds are the most visible winter wildlife, whether you live in an urban, suburban, or rural environment. They commonly take shelter from cold, heat-robbing winds in dense shrubbery, or in woodpecker-made cavities that have been excavated in trees. Their energy sources include not only the suet and seeds with which we fill our feeders, but dried fruits and seeds of ornamental plantings, torpid insects hidden under tree bark, and other such available foods.

For wildlife, the elements of lion-like winter weather can have very different - even opposite - consequences, depending on the species. Snow is one such element. Deep snow for many weeks can be dire for deer. Once snow depth reach or exceed about 18 inches, travel becomes difficult, especially for deer that are smaller, or in less robust health. These snow depths prompt deer to begin "yarding up," and traveling less. The more concentrated deer are, the more they deplete available quality food resources.

If these snow depths persist for many weeks, deer are at increasing risk of death from malnutrition, or does losing the fawns they're carrying, and having diminished ability to escape predators, chiefly the timber wolf.

On the other hand, that 18 inches of snow would be a boon to ruffed grouse, the most important truly native game bird of Minnesota's woodlands. In winter grouse will roost in dense, wind-shielding conifer stands. But when snow depth is sufficient, grouse will burrow under the white blanket, insulated and invisible.

Staying warmer there under the snow, the calories that grouse take in consuming aspen buds and hazel catkins will go farther. As a result, less time is spent searching out food and being exposed to predators, like hawks, owls and foxes. Winters with little snow, or when a mid-winter thaw seals and hardens the snow and makes it useless for roosting, are likely to lead to fewer breeding grouse in spring. On the other hand, heavily-crust-ed snow may be an ideal pursuit surface for predators like foxes, coyotes, or timber wolves. One creature's loss may be another creature's gain.

Contrary to what you'd expect of a bird that erupts like a rocket when flushed by a hunter, grouse are quite pedestrian. They commonly walk from place to place unless they're trying to escape a predator or hunter. Evidence of this is abundant in winter, when the four-toed (one toe points backward) tracks they leave in their amblings are an open book revealing their travels. If the snow is deep enough for roosting under, eventually you may encounter a cavity in the snow, with finger-like impressions on each side where a grouse's wing pinions marked the snow, when - sensing danger - it catapulted into flight.

Minnesota's most important prairie and farmland game bird - the tough,

hardy, ring-necked pheasant - is another creature whose fortunes and survival are subject to the whims of winter weather. Ring-necks take advantage of the wind-breaking cover found in cattails and other dense vegetation in sloughs and lowlands. Though pheasants aren't generally considered snow roosters in the sense that grouse are, there certainly has to be some insulating value in the snow that collects in the vegetation in such places.

But too much snow, accompanied by wind, can drift and fill those lowlands, and essentially evict the pheasants. Excessive snow can also cover food sources, including leftover grain from corn and other crops, as well as wild foods they feed on in winter, including seeds, berries and buds. In heavily cultivated farmland the pheasant's dependence on waste grain is great, which is why food plots on habitat managed for pheasants emphasizes planting corn, sorghum, wheat, soybeans, millet or rye. Unharvested corn and sorghum are especially good, since they retain their seeds on stalks that are more likely to remain above accumulating snow.

For Nature's creatures, as for humans, a winter that's good for one may not be so good for another. I like abundant snow for cross country skiing, a feeling shared by those who ride snowmobiles. But many avid ice anglers would be perfectly content with cold temperatures and little snow, which makes for good, safe ice early in winter, and less complicated moving - or removing - ice fishing shelters when the time comes. Lots of snow is generally good for grouse, not so good for deer and pheasants. Other species can be added to the list, on both pro and con sides of the equation. Only time will tell which will experience the weather most auspicious for them.



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Deadline for classified ads, display ads, garage sale ads, letters to the editor and news items for the **Staples World is 5 p.m. Monday**

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Little Cardinals Academy seeks a full time Classroom Aide, to begin immediately. Part time applicants will be considered. Visit www.isd2170.k12.mn.us for a full job description. Submit cover letter, resume and references to: Staples-Motley District Office, 204 Pleasant Ave. NE, Staples, MN 56479. Position open until filled.
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We are in search of someone who is looking for a rewarding job in the Nursing field. Full and Part-time Day shifts now available for CNAs. Must be a TEAM player and possess a special interest in working with Long Term Care residents, families, and visitors. CTCCC offers a wide variety of benefits and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Contact Amanda Rickbeil, arickbeil@ctcccinc.com or call 218-756-3636 ext. 12
Pick up an application in the Business Office, or after hours at the Nurse's Station. Business Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CENTRAL TODD COUNTY CARE CENTER IS LOCATED IN CLARISSA, MN.

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New paint project

Darci McGillivray, Administrative Accounting Asst. for the City of Motley, recently painted all of city hall, a project which took over two weeks to complete. She is pictured Dec. 29, in the meeting room area. McGillivray did most of the work herself, but received some help from Police Officer Jason Borash and Maintenance Asst. Bryan Stevens. At their regular meeting in December, the Motley City Council had approved spending up to \$5,000 for improvements at city hall. This included updating furniture and painting walls as needed. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Answers about VA Choice Program

1. Am I eligible for the Veterans Choice Program?
To be eligible for the program, you must be enrolled in VA health care and must meet at least one of the following criteria:
• You're told by your VA medical facility that you'll need to wait more than 30 days for an appointment.
• Your residence is more than a 40 miles to the nearest VA medical facility with a full time primary care physician.
• You need to travel by air, boat, or ferry to the nearest VA medical facility to your home.
• You face an unusual or excessive burden in traveling to the closest VA medical facility based on a geographic challenge, environmental factor, medical condition, or other specific clinical decisions. Staff at your local VA medical facility will help you to determine if you're eligible.
• You reside in a state or a U. S. Territory without a full-service VA medical facility with a hospital, emergency services and surgical care and reside more than 20 miles from such a VA medical facility. This criterion applies to Veterans residing in Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of

the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and some Veterans in New Hampshire reside within 20 miles of White River Junction VAMC and who are not eligible for the Veterans Choice Program.
2. What if I think I'm eligible?
Call the VCP call center at 866-606-8198 or visit the Veterans Choice Program website to verify eligibility and for an appointment here.
3. Can I call my non-VA doctor to make an appointment?
No, call the VCP call center at 866-606-8198 to verify eligibility and set up an appointment.
4. How is the 40 mile calculation determined?
Calculation is based on the driving distance from your permanent residence (or active temporary address) to the nearest VA facility, including Community-Based Outpatient Clinics and VA Medical Centers.
5. If I'm eligible for the Veterans Choice Program, can I receive Beneficiary Travel for travel to appointments with a VCP provider?
Yes, the Choice Act provides funding for travel to VCP providers for Veterans who are eligible for Beneficiary

Travel. However, it doesn't provide any new Beneficiary Travel eligibility.
6. If I didn't get my Choice Card or I lost my Choice Card, what do I do?
You don't need your Choice Card to access the VCP. If you didn't receive a Choice Card or lost your Choice Card call 866-606-8198 to find out if you're eligible and for an appointment.
7. How do I get my prescription filled on the Veterans Choice Program?
The community provider you see through the VCP can issue a prescription for up to a 14 day supply of a national formulary drug. You may have the 14 day supply filled at any non-VA pharmacy of your choosing.
Prescriptions can be reimbursed through the Business Office/Non-VA Care Coordination Office at VA facilities. Reimbursement may take 30-45 days to process, requires a copy of the prescription and the original receipt. Veterans cannot be reimbursed at the VA Pharmacy.
For prescriptions needed past 14 days, follow standard procedures to fill a prescription at the VA pharmacy.
8. If I use the Veterans Choice Program, does that affect my VA health care?
No, you don't have to choose between the two. The VA is building a high-performing integrated health care network to deliver the best of VA and the community. This integrated network will give Veterans more choices to access care and ensure care is delivered where and when you need it.

9. What is my responsibility for co-payments for my other insurance?
Nothing. VA is now the primary coordinator of benefits for VCP so you're only responsible for your VA copayment.
Your VA copayment will be determined by VA after the care is provided. VA copayments will be billed by VA after the appointment.
10. How does the new VCP extension law affect me?
Public Law 115-26, enacted April 19, 2017, made three key changes to help improve the VCP. The law removed the expiration date for the program, made VA primary coordinator of benefits for services provided to you and it removed barriers with sharing necessary health information with community providers.
Refer to the Veterans Choice Program website <https://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact> for more information about the program, its benefits, and eligibility criteria. Providers interested in participating must establish a contract with one of the contractors, Health Net Federal, or TriWest Healthcare Alliance. For more information, about how to participate please visit Veterans Choice Program website for providers at https://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/for_providers.asp. [Source: VHA Update | July 25, 2017 ++]
See your local County Veterans Service Officer if you have any questions. You can contact your local VSO at 218-631-7617 or by email at david.anderson@co.wadena.mn.us.

Law enforcement reports, Motley area

Recent reports from the Motley Police Department (MPD) and the Morrison County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) included the following:
Dec. 27 - The MPD responded to a report of theft at the 200 block of Cedar St. E. in Motley.
Dec. 26 - The MPD issued a citation to Frank Martin, 18, for speeding.
Dec. 26 - The MPD received a report of theft at Orton's BP in Motley.

Dec. 24 - The MCSO responded to a report of suspicious activity at the 7000 block of Channel Ln., Pillager. Caller stated that there was an image on their trail camera of a person on their property walking around their residence.
Dec. 23 - The MCSO received a report of a driver who had hit a deer

near 320th St. and Dove Rd., Cushing.
Dec. 23 - The MCSO received a call from state patrol reporting a one-vehicle accident on Hwy 210 in Motley. According to the report, the vehicle was in the ditch and there were no known injuries. Motley First Response and Staples Ambulance were paged.

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*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.
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SW 2018 wk.#1 2018



NOTICE CITY OF STAPLES SUMMARY PUBLICATION

Official Summary of Ordinance No. 515
Amendment of Section 10.4 to the Staples City Code - Tobacco and Related Devices and Products.

NOTICE: THE FOLLOWING PUBLISHED MATERIAL IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF SECTION 10.4 TO THE STAPLES CITY CODE. A PRINTED COPY OF THE ENTIRE 9 PAGE ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY ANY PERSON DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS AT THE STAPLES CITY HALL.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STAPLES DOES ORDAIN:

SECTION 10.4 TOBACCO AND RELATED DEVICES AND PRODUCTS.

Section 10.4 of the Staples City Code contains 17 sub-sections. The purpose of the ordinance is to identify those standards used to regulate the sale, possession, and use of tobacco, tobacco related devices, electronic delivery devices, and nicotine or lobelia delivery products for the purpose of enforcing and furthering existing laws, to protect minors against the serious effects associated with the illegal use of tobacco, tobacco related devices, electronic delivery devices, or nicotine or lobelia delivery products, and to further the official public policy of the State of Minnesota in regard to preventing young people from starting to smoke as stated in Minn. Stat. § 144.391.

The Ordinance sets forth the relevant definitions of terms as used throughout the Ordinance, and establishes sales, licensing and penalty requirements. Sections 1 and 2 of the Ordinance address the purpose and definitions for the Ordinance. Sections 3 through 5 address Licensing. Sections 6 through 10 address Sales requirements. Sections 11 through 14 address Violations and Penalties. Sections 15 through 17 address miscellaneous provisions of the ordinance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance will be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication according to law.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STAPLES THIS 4TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2018.

APPROVED: Chris Etzler, Mayor

ATTEST: Diane Archer, City Clerk

NOTICE FRESHWATER ED DISTRICT NO. 6004 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Notice is hereby given that the Freshwater Ed District No. 6004 of Staples, MN hereby requests proposals for CTSS service for a Level IV site until 3:00 p.m. on January 29, 2018.

All proposals shall be clearly identified as a CTSS Proposal for the Freshwater Education District.

The proposals must be presented to the designated contact for Freshwater, Lori Murdock, at the following address:

Lori Murdock
Freshwater Education District
910 Ash Ave NE
Wadena, MN 56482

No formal proposal opening will take place. Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria as set forth within the RFP. Details/requirements for proposals are available on the Freshwater website www.fed.k12.mn.us.

The Freshwater Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive formalities, and to select the agency and options that best meet the needs of the board and its employees.

Inquiries and clarifications should be directed to Freshwater's contact as follows:

Lori Murdock
218-631-3505 Ext. 1042
lmurdock@fed.k12.mn.us
Clerk of District #6004
52-1pnc

NOTICE CITY OF STAPLES ORDINANCE NO. 514

AN ORDINANCE to vacate a north-south alley generally located north of U.S. Highway 10, between 7th and 8th St. NE.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF STAPLES DOES ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Staples, Todd County, Minnesota, has authorized vacation of the following described alley pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 412.851 and the Charter:

The alley located between Lots 1-4 and Lots 9-12, Block 25, Staples Mill, according to the plat of record in the Todd County Recorder's Office, Todd County, MN.

SECTION 2. Effective Date. The ordinance and vacation becomes effective from and after its passage and publication.

APPROVED: Chris Etzler, Mayor

ATTEST: Diane Archer, City Clerk

First Reading: December 12, 2017
Second Reading: December 26, 2017
Adoption: December 26, 2017
Published: January 4, 2018

1pnc

NOTICE CITY OF STAPLES ORDINANCE NO. 516 AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE SALE OF PROPERTY

THE CITY OF STAPLES DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 1 The City of Staples is hereby empowered to sell the following real estate located in the City of Staples, County of Todd, State of Minnesota, in accordance with the sale price authorized by the City Council:

Legal Description:

Lots 9 and 10, Block 8, Forest Park Addition to Staples, City of Staples, Todd County, Minnesota. Said parcels contain 13,940 square feet, more or less, and are subject to all easements, restrictions, and reservations of record, if any.

Sec. 2 The net proceeds from the sale shall be used pursuant to Section 11.05 of the Staples City Charter.

Sec. 3 This ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage and publication in accordance with law.

APPROVED: Chris Etzler, Mayor

ATTEST: Diane Archer, City Clerk

First Reading: December 12, 2017
Second Reading: December 26, 2017
Adoption: December 26, 2017
Published: January 4, 2018

1pnc

NOTICE MAY TOWNSHIP

JANUARY, 8 2018
May Township regular meeting: Monday, January 8, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

May Township re-organizational meeting: Monday, January 8, 2018 immediately following regular meeting.

May Township audit meeting: Monday, January 8, 2018 immediately following re-organizational meeting.

Bianca Wyffels, Clerk
May Township
52-1pnc

NOTICE BYRON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDIT AND RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Audit and Re-Organizational meetings will be held Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall, Leader MN. The purpose of the Board of Audit is to examine and audit the Town Accounts.

Karen Roubal, Clerk
Byron Township
1-2pnc

NOTICE TODD-WADENA COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

The Todd-Wadena Community Corrections Executive Committee will meet Monday, January 8, 2018, at 4:30 p.m., at the Todd County Courthouse, 221 First Avenue South, Suite 200, Long Prairie, Minnesota.

Curtis Bryniarski
Administrative Assistant
1pnc

NOTICE BYRON TOWNSHIP 2018 MEETING DATES

Byron Township will hold their regular 2018 monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Leader Community Hall, Leader, MN.

Karen Roubal, Clerk
Byron Township
52-1pnc

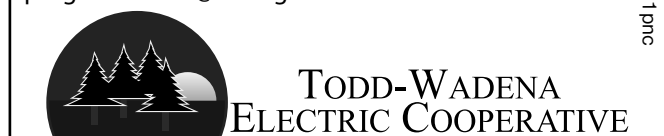
FILING NOTICE THOMASTOWN TOWNSHIP

Thomastown Township will hold an election for one supervisor for a three year term and one clerk for a two year term. The filing period for these of-

fices opens on January 2, 2018 and closes on January 16, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. To file for office, contact Stacy Dukowitz at 218-296-0834.

Stacy Dukowitz, Clerk
Thomastown Township
1pnc

Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



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Staples Area Church Directory

Table listing various churches in the Staples area including: Staples Alliance, United Methodist, Motley, Hewitt Church of the Nazarene, Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS), Verndale Alliance, Family Life Church, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS), Central United Methodist, Hope Chapel Alliance, Pillager First Lutheran Church, Casino Assembly of God, First Baptist, Maple Hill Lutheran, Leaf River Township The Old Country Church, Cushing Baptist, Cushing Lutheran, Bethany Lutheran, Lincoln Evangelical Free, Sacred Heart Church, Faith Lutheran, Seventh Day Adventist, Thomastown Covenant, Trinity Lutheran, Aldrich Congregational, United Church of Christ, Balsamlund Lutheran, Cushing Baptist, Cushing Lutheran, Bethany Lutheran, Lincoln Evangelical Free, Sacred Heart Church, Faith Lutheran, Seventh Day Adventist, Thomastown Covenant, Trinity Lutheran.

Hanging on to the Rock in the Storms of Life
Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

I was reminded again in December through a verbal prayer request that the Christmas-New Year's holidays are not "the most wonderful time of year" for many people. There are some disturbing life statistics that cyclically arrive during each January. Darkness deepens when you are lonely and disappointed.
I was watching The Weather Channel as live footage captured a man caught in a violent river current. There was a large life-saving rock that he was clinging to until the rescue crew could reach him and bring him to safety.
In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus shares the vivid word picture that contrasts a person who literally hangs on to Jesus in the storms of life with a person who is living life in shifting sand.
This reminds me of another weather phenomena that is gut-wrenching to even see, let alone experience, when people, many times unknown to them, find that their house (or even neighborhood) was built on a sinkhole that swallows everything above it.
Some of the above scenarios can't always be prevented, but God does greatly help us in areas of our lives where something can be done about it. First off, let's start with the most important matter... that of our relationship with God.

Too many of our lives are lived in either unawareness or of thankfulness for God's extreme generosity. This is especially true when it comes to bringing us back to Him after we left Him in our distrusting sin. In Deuteronomy 8, God's heart is broken. He is always a generous God. He wants to give us so much. But alas, in this chapter, He sees the pattern of us presuming on His generosity to the point that we conclude that WE make it all happen. When this happens, we turn on Him. But, patient as He is, He keeps pursuing us in His incredible and patient love, calling us back to Himself. This is of first order. This is salvation as He paid for our sins on the cross through the death of His Son, Jesus. He desires deeply that we humbly and gratefully receive this utmost gift.
All other gifts from God need to follow, not replace, this rock-solid foundation gift in each of our lives.
Then, in our storms of life, we're able to draw from His other gifts; of Bible reading, prayer, His Church and other trusted friends around us. Following those rock-solid gifts from God, may be a well-timed card with a note, a phone call or God's gift of you sharing His gifts with others. In dark times, it's amazing how God heals you, when you reach out to serve.

The Staples area Church Directory is sponsored by these businesses:

Grid of business logos and names including: Longbella Drug Store, Ernie's Food Market, Staples Veterinary Clinic, Mid-Central Federal Savings Bank, Central Building Supply, Staples World, Tower Pizza, Staples True Value.