

2016 was a year of building for the future

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

Education changes, development projects dominate year

Many of the stories that appeared in the Staples World in 2016 centered on preparations for the future. Three major construction projects were started in Staples. The Thriving Communities Initiative started looking at community needs in economic development, workforce and quality of life.

As usual, the Staples World was also filled with stories about families, achievements and people who create in the community.

The following are some of the highlights of 2016:

Jan. 14 - James and Sheena Ziegler, Staples started working on their Habitat For Humanity home they will fix up and live in.

Jan. 14 - The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Foundation donated \$25,000 to the Staples Historical Society to help start a museum after the Staples Depot renovation is finished.

Jan. 21 - Dr. Jonathan and Amy Claussen make family a priority in their lives and help other families through their ministry, "Family Restoration Project."

Jan. 28 - The "Re-start" campaign was recommended to the Staples Motley School District by administration, including restructuring the grade levels at each school building.

Feb. 11 - Informational



City officials celebrate hotel groundbreaking

"I am impressed with the people of Staples and their can-do attitude," said Mike Ives at the groundbreaking of the Timberlake Hotel in Staples in August. The Ives family is building the hotel and naming it after their Timberlake Lodge in Grand Rapids. From left are Rick Utech, Todd County Development Corporation; Staples City Council members Doug Case, Kevin Jenkins and Ron Murray; Staples Mayor Chris Etzler; City Administrator Jerel Nelsen; Mike Ives; council member Mary Theurer; Economic Development Director Melissa Rademacher; Staples Motley Chamber of Commerce Director Barb Cline; Staples-Motley School Board member Mary Freeman; and Mary Ives. Also attending were neighboring business people, bank officials and local well-wishers. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Groundbreaking on \$20 million clinic addition

Some of the principal players who planned the Lakewood Health System main campus addition gathered at the clinic and hospital on Oct. 10 for a groundbreaking ceremony. From left, Brad Anderson, VP of Strategy and Development; Kathy Dobson, VP of Senior Services; Dr. John Halfen, CMO; Craig Wolhowe, VP of Hospital and Clinics; Lisa Bjerga, CFO; Jeff Scholten, USDA; Dr. Christine Albrecht; Teresa Fisher, CNO/COO; Mary Theurer, District Board Chair; Tim Rice, President and CEO; Loren Morey, System Board Chair; Ryan Johansen and Jenifer Jirele, BWBR; Richard Bell, Steve Poissant, Eric Lien, Mark Strelnieks, and Scott Kuehl, Nor-Son Construction. Not pictured: Lynn Rice, VP of Support Services. See planned expansion graphics on page 8a. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

meetings about the school re-start campaign drew large crowds. Several parents objected to the school realignment, specifically moving all the younger students, grades K-3, to the Staples building.

Feb. 25 - Five Staples-Motley wrestlers qualified for the state wrestling tournament, Spencer Miller, Owen Bjerga, Eric Lisson, Jeremy Miller and Alex Erpelding.

Feb. 25 - After reviewing statistics and rural trends, attendees at the Thriving Communities Initiative meeting determined that Staples is a "young and vibrant" community.

Feb. 25 - Rose Han and William Thew were the top spellers in the district spelling bee.

March 3 - The Staples-Motley School Board approved the re-start proposal.

March 17 - Staples Motley High School student Anna Koopmann memorized 1,000 digits of pi, the number used to calculate the area of a circle. Student Kyle Huepenbecker memorized 500 digits of the number pi.

March 24 - Jennifer DeBoer credited her faith, community and local police with helping her end her addiction to methamphetamines.

March 24 - Hara Charlier is named the new Central Lakes College President.

March 24 - The Staples-Motley knowledge bowl team qualified for the state

See **YEAR IN REVIEW** on page 8a

DFS board - new fundraisers, same purpose

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The Staples-Motley Dollars For Scholars (DFS) board has new faces replacing some of the long time members. They are trying

new things as a board and have more going on with their web site and online fundraising. But their main purpose is still the same, to provide educational scholarships to local students.

This year the board is conducting a raffle that will replace the auction they have held for many years. The raffle will still have some of the items that have been auctioned, such as Lakes Jam tickets, a sleigh ride, equipment and gift certificates from local businesses. A full list is on their facebook page.

Raffle tickets can be purchased from any board member and they will also be selling them at athletic events, such as the Jan. 6 boys basketball game and Jan. 21 wrestling meet. Giza Plumbing & Heating in Staples also has raffle tickets for sale.

The raffle drawing will be held Jan. 24 at halftime of the basketball double-

header that night.

A new way to support DFS is through their GoFundMe web page. Donations to this year's scholarships need to be received by Jan 31.

Dollars For Scholars is also accepting new scholarships through the first week of January. Any person or organization who wants to create a scholarship is welcome to add it to the lineup. The fund is considered a charitable donation. Of all the scholarships given out each year, approximately \$10,000 comes from the board's general fund. The rest are sponsored scholarships. DFS has given out more than \$85,000 in scholarships each year for the past four years and has a total of \$1,439,365 distributed since they started in 1986.

The way students apply for the scholarships has changed in the last year.

See **DFS** on page 3a



Dollars For Scholars board

Dollars For Scholars board members include, front row from left, Judy Droubie, Melissa Daniels, Mary Koblika and Sharon Hirschey; standing, Carol Jackson, Bryan Winkels, Becky Fuhrman and Lisa Giza. Not pictured are Melanie Bestland, Dale Williams, Michelle Wolhowe, Karina Koblika, Mike Schmidt and Jennifer Strickland. Board members said they appreciate the work of two long time pillars of the board, Roger Houselog and Jody Longbella, who recently went off the board. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Hello, Readers,

New Year's is one of the oldest holidays still celebrated, but the exact date and nature of the festivities has changed over time. It originated thousands of years ago in ancient Babylon, celebrated as an eleven day festival on the first day of spring. During this time, many cultures used the sun and moon cycle to decide the "first" day of the year. It wasn't until Julius Caesar implemented the Julian calendar that January 1st became the common day for the celebration. In the twentieth century, it has become associated with relationships and introspection.

Where in the World?
City of Staples budget: **7A**

Obituary
Ardith Schmith

Thank you for subscribing!

Cass Crest hog facility opening soon

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The newly constructed Cass Crest hog facility is nearly ready to start farrowing hogs. The first set of hogs is expected to come in early January. The barn, a high tech, high health, top genetics barn will supply breeding sows to many other barns in southern Minnesota. Those barn operators are partners in building as well.

It's built west of Leader on 80th St. SW, with one large barn connected to a farrowing facility.

Cass Crest representative Bill Crawford said that because it's a high health barn, random visitors won't be allowed once the hogs are in the barn. They held an open house for neighbors Dec. 16, to have an opportunity to come inside the barn and look around as construction was still in the process of being completed.

Crawford said when the barn is full, the facility will house approximately

2,000 animals. The primary purpose is to produce good mothers. They will look for genetics that produce large litters, have good tempera-

ments, among other traits.

The facility allows the hogs a large floor to walk around at leisure. They're able to access their own

individual feeding crates where an automated feeding system will pipe in high nutrition corn and soybean pellets.

Three employees had been hired by the day of the open house. Dave

See **HOG FACILITY** on page 2a



Neighborhood networking at hog barn open house

Neighbors and Cass Crest hog barn partners mingled at an open house for the facility held Dec. 16. A steady crowd came by to check out the new facility, which should start feeding hogs in January. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Hog barn operators

Three Cass Crest employees who will operate the barn were at the open house, from left, Dan Wentworth, Dave Labenz and Travis DiGiovanni. When running at full capacity, the facility will employ seven to eight full time employees and a few more part time employees. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



What it's like to be a pig

Andrea and Anthony DiGiovanni test out one of the hog crates during the Cass Crest hog facility open house. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

HOG FACILITY continued from page 1a

Many building functions are automated

Labenz will be the manager, with 34 years of experience running hog barns.

Labenz said the entire barn will be automated, where they can control temperature, set the amount of feed for each pig and if needed they can individually manage each hog. All the sows have their

own feed trough so they can eat at their own pace. The control panel can also be accessed by cell phone, so employees can make remote changes and be alerted if something goes wrong.

Travis DiGiovanni, another employee who has experience working at a hog barn, says it's not hard to manage that many hogs, and with experience, workers can learn to spot a sick pig in the crowd. "You get to know them, if they're

off their feed or turn a pale color, you know something is wrong," he said.

The sows will be artificially inseminated and the employees can check their pregnancy status with ultrasound.

Once the hogs are in the barn, there'll be a slight increase in road traffic. They might average one load of hogs going out every week and two to three loads of feed coming in.

When someone we love becomes a memory; that memory becomes a treasure.

Brenny
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Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Aldrich

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

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

Cushing

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

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

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

Leaf River Township

The Old Country Church
Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info. # 218-837-5690
Open by arrangement

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

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

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

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

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

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

Hewitt

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

Verndale

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

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

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

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

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

First Student Activity Day set for Jan. 3

By Mark Anderson, News Editor

Tuesday, Jan. 3, as Staples-Motley students return from their winter break, they'll have an interesting first day back of learning, helping and playing as the school district will hold its first Activity Day.

While students are engaged in a variety of activities, teachers will be in workshops and learning groups. Often when teachers have in-service days like this, other staff such as paraprofessionals, bus drivers and food service personnel lose a day of work. In addition, parents need to make alternative arrangements for their children.

To address this issue the board and administration decided to plan these activities, which will be carried out under the supervision of staff and volunteers. Additional activities days are planned for Feb. 3 and April 3.

Kindergarten and first graders will have; story time, rotation of activities, library, phy. ed, music, puzzles, technology and games.

Second graders will leave for 3-2-1 Bounce in Brainerd in the morning.

Third grade will go to the Staples Community Center for swimming, gym time, activities and board games.

All elementary school students will meet at Centennial Auditorium for a movie at 1 p.m. and will be back to the school by 3 p.m.

At Motley-Staples Middle School, the fourth and fifth graders will have in-school activities and will watch a movie.

Sixth graders will spend the day at Camp Shaminau. Seventh grade; students will help with the Hunger No More project at the high school. High school students will also be helping with that project.

High school students have also volunteered to help with the elementary activities.

Other high school activities include; League of Legends video game event and a representative from St. Cloud State University will be visiting.

Rep. Ron Kresha and Rep. John Poston get committee duties

Legislature convenes Jan. 3

House Speaker Kurt Daudt, R-Crown, has announced committee assignments for the 2017-2018 Minnesota Legislature which will convene at noon, Tuesday, Jan. 3

The 27 committees, sub-committees and divisions that House Republican leadership named in late November are at the core of the legislative process. They act as filters, deciding which of the thousands of bills introduced during the two-year biennium will get a hearing and continue to move through the legislative process toward becoming law.

Rep. Ron Kresha, R-Little Falls, will begin his third term representing District 9B which covers all or parts of Morrison and Todd counties. He was elected as the Minnesota

House Majority Whip. It is the third most powerful position in the House Republican caucus.

Kresha has been assigned to the commerce and regulatory, education finance and health and human services reform committees and to the sub-committee on child care access and affordability.

He can be reached at 651-296-4247, 800-727-4612 or rep.ron.kresha@house.mn. His mailing address is 531 State Office Building, 100 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155.

Rep. John Poston, R-Lake Shore, will begin his first term representing District 9A which covers all or parts of Todd, Wadena and Cass counties. Poston has been assigned to the agriculture finance, agriculture policy, capital investment, education finance committees and the veterans affairs division.

Poston can be reached at 651-297-9010 or rep.john.poston@house.mn. His mailing address is State Office Building, 100 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. St. Paul, MN 55155. His office assignment was not yet finalized.

The Original Christmas Tree

Pastor Nathan Hillman, Thomastown Covenant Church, Staples

Just outside our church's sanctuary windows, there once stood a great basswood tree. For many years it towered beautifully alongside the building. Eventually it grew old, lost its health and was cut down (before a storm could come along and throw that giant onto the church building). The stump was ground up all the way down below the surface of the earth. Wood chips were hauled away. Dirt was filled in over the hole and packed down. About a year later in the summer, shoots started to grow up out of the ground by the dozens. That old basswood still had life deep, down in its roots.

Isaiah once prophesied, A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from His roots a branch will bear fruit. (Isaiah 11:1)

In this case, the old tree was the line of King David (son of Jesse), which was a disaster of failed kingdoms if you ever saw one. Failed. That's why it's called a stump. But God had a plan and there was still life in those roots, and eventually a shoot came up and grew into a tree bearing fruit greater than anything ever seen before. This tree, this life, was called Jesus. The original Christmas Tree! Like shoots out of the ground, Jesus comes up when you don't expect Him - bringing life, beauty and goodness. The good news is for every one of us that has ever known failure. Every one of us that has ever felt as-good-as-dead. Like a stump.

The good news is that, by being attached (grafted) to Jesus, new life and beauty and goodness will come to you and to me! Will you choose Life today?

"The time has come," [Jesus] said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15)

The Staples area Church Directory is sponsored by these businesses:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Avoid Event Conflicts
Check the Events Calendar online at
www.staplesworld.com
Submit events to
dtimbs@staplesworld.com

Wadena County officials denied preferred salary

By Rin Porter
Wadena County reporter

At the Dec. 20 county board meeting, the last meeting of 2016, Wadena County Commissioners dealt with a number of matters of salary and staffing.

County employees who are union members will receive a two percent salary increase in each of the next three years, and non-union employees and department heads will also receive a two percent salary increase in each of the next three years. The board voted to deny the elected officials and the county engineer the 2.5 percent salary increase to bring them into equivalence with the new proposed salary schedule.

Instead, the Wadena County Auditor/Treasurer, County Attorney, Recorder, Sheriff, and County Engineer will receive a flat fee of \$1,750 as a salary increase for 2017.

This \$1,750 is less than a 2.5 percent increase for the County Attorney, Engineer, Auditor/Treasurer, and Sheriff. It's more than a 2.5 percent increase for the Recorder.

The three commissioners who engineered this flat fee increase for the elected officials and county engineer were Dave Hillukka, Sheldon Monson and Rodney Bounds. The other two commissioners - Jim Hofer and Bill Stearns - favored providing the five officials with a raise to the same salary schedule that everyone else would be on.

The only reasoning offered for the unequal treatment was that the five officials were making too much money compared to other employees, in the opinions of Hillukka, Monson, and Bounds. Hillukka also cited Todd County salaries for the top three officials, which were slightly lower than Wadena County's. He concluded that therefore, Wadena County should not increase the salaries of the top three officials, which would save \$1,300.

The compensation of the county commissioners for 2017 will be the same as for 2016.

In other business, the board

- Approved an extension of the Memorandum of Understanding between Becker County and Wadena County which allows the two counties to share a transit director.

- Heard an update on the status of the North Annex Building construction project.

- Approved a change in the medical examination contract that the sheriff has. The new provider will be Midwest Medical Examiners, of Anoka.

- Approved the hiring of a part-time jailer-dispatcher into a full-time position as jailer-dispatcher.

- Discussed the large increase in out-of-county prisoner boarding expenses incurred by the sheriff's department.

- Accepted with regret the resignation of Debbie Mursu, long-time county employee in the auditor/treasurer's office and most recently, the human resources department. Approved the advertising of the position.

- Approved the job description for the new position of network support technician, in the IT department.

- Heard statistical reports from social services.

- Heard a presentation on the Minnesota Merit

System from Betty Carlson, Brett Boyd and Adam Colberg. The merit system is required by the U.S. Government to assure that the personnel administration of social service departments meets standards of fairness in pay and working conditions, in return for receiving federal funding.

- Heard a report from Social Services Director Tanya Leskey in relation to the merit system presentation. Leskey is concerned that the county's salaries for social services employees are not high enough to retain qualified employees to work for the county.

- Approved the hiring of nine employees in the social services department to fill vacant positions: Julie Kiffmeyer, Melissa Grava, Nicole Rodelke, Brooke Holstead, Jessica Jarvey, Janet Kern, Molly Cash, Jordana Pearson, Cheri Dodds.

- Approved a three-month lease extension for the Workforce Center, to March 31, 2017.

- Thanked Commissioner Rodney Bounds for his years of service as a commissioner. Bounds is retiring effective Dec. 31, 16.

- Discussed the future of the Old Schoolhouse at the Wadena County Fairgrounds with officials of the Ag Society and the Wadena County Historical Society. Commissioner Monson agreed to make contacts about repairing the Old Schoolhouse and bring the information to a January board meeting.

- Heard quarterly report from Mark Hanson, Executive Director of WCEDA.

- Agreed to pay \$77,261; for the SE Wadena water and sewer assessments of county property from the county's rental revenue account.



Honored by defense contractor

From left, Gary's Diesel employees Shane Gustafson and Jim Standal, Jim Erickson of Oshkosh Defense and owner Gary Hoemberg with the new sign provided by the defense contractor and the plaque signifying Gary's Diesel, Staples, reaching Tier 1 Standards status. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Oshkosh Defense contractor puts Gary's Diesel in Tier 1 status

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

Repairing medium and heavy tactical vehicles takes specialty training and a flexible schedule. Gary's Diesel in Staples, owned by Gary Hoemberg, has done such a good job of keeping up Oshkosh Defense vehicles, the military contractor recently awarded them with "Tier 1 Standards," the highest honor the company gives.

"It's nice to have a service provider as responsive and dependable as Gary has been," said Jim Erickson of Oshkosh Defense.

On Dec. 21, Erickson traveled to Staples to present Hoemberg with a Tier 1 Standards plaque and also to help put up an Oshkosh Defense preferred service provider sign in front of the shop, located along Highway 10 west of Staples.

Erickson said they have service provid-

ers in 166 countries around the world and this is just the second Tier 1 Standards award they have given out. He said the standard is to reach 90 percent on their metrics, although Gary's Diesel is at 100 percent.

Hoemberg said he started working with Oshkosh Defense in 2005, when the company sent out a request to fill their workload need. He said it took a lot of training to get ready, as there are 34 models of medium tactical vehicles and several models of heavy vehicles.

At first Hoemberg was repairing all the vehicles in the state. Now he said they cover about half of the state.

And the load is only going to get heavier. Erickson said they are working on a defense contract to add light tactical vehicles to their fleet soon, so the workers at Gary's Diesel will have more training to keep up with the new vehicles.



Students helping Dollars For Scholars

Dollars For Scholars student representatives are responsible for helping out with events, mailings and letting their classmates know about the opportunities available. Above, seated from left, Autumn Nelsen, Brian Sterriker, Ashley Smith and Claire Wolhowe; standing, Cade Schmidt, Emmitt Winkels, Scout Strickland, Kiera Dumpprope and advisor Michelle Wolhowe. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

DFS continued from page 1a

Application processes changed, but many individual scholarship requirements remain

They now go online and fill out information to match criteria that is set for each scholarship. Some scholarships require essays and specific requirements, but others are open to all students. The Howard Griffiths scholarships still

will require the interview process that has been established.

After all that work has been done, this year's awards ceremony is scheduled for May 5 a 7 p.m. in Centennial Auditorium.

Once a student is

awarded a scholarship, they wait until they start college, then verify their proof of enrollment. A check is then sent in both the student's name and in the name of the college, so that the money only goes for tuition or books.



Culinary class field trip

Students in the Staples-Motley High School culinary basics class and instructor Lisa Kajer experienced quantity baking first hand at Camp Shamineau. Camp staff showed the students how to use large industrial equipment as they made 80 dozen chocolate chip cookies and 40 dozen muffins. They also learned the importance of preparation, teamwork and efficiency.

Above, chef Dan Posner explains baking techniques to the students.

Below, students and staff included, front from left; Krystal Yoder, Gaven Christensen and Hailey Owen; middle, Betty Posner, Jonah Johnson, Julia Vallmayor, Colton Fraley, Brittney Lisson, Kiera Dumpprope, Del Eckman and Karen Bart; back, Dan Posner, Aidan Jaeger, Shirley Misner and Cameron Bendson. The field trip was made possible by a grant from the Bridges Workplace Connection and funded in part by the Otto Bremer Foundation.



Reading with Santa

Jump Start kindergarten students listen to Santa Claus with rapt attention as he reads books during their school party held Dec. 22. Some students wore pajamas for their party. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Icy roads cause crash

A Holmen, Wisc. man is in critical condition as the result of a one-vehicle accident Dec. 26, on Hwy 10 north of Cushing.

According to the Morrison County Sheriff's Office, 26-year-old Adam McCullough was traveling north on Hwy 10 at approximately 1 p.m. when he lost control on the icy road. His vehicle left the roadway and rolled into the median.

McCullough was the only occupant and was wearing a seat belt. He was transported by ambulance to St. Gabriel's Hospital in Little Falls and then transferred to St. Cloud Hospital. McCullough was later airlifted to North Memorial Medical Center in Robbinsdale and as of Dec. 27, remained in critical condition.

The Koopmann Family



Start your New Year's Eve festivities with this multi-talented family of musicians
2 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 31
 United Methodist Church, Motley

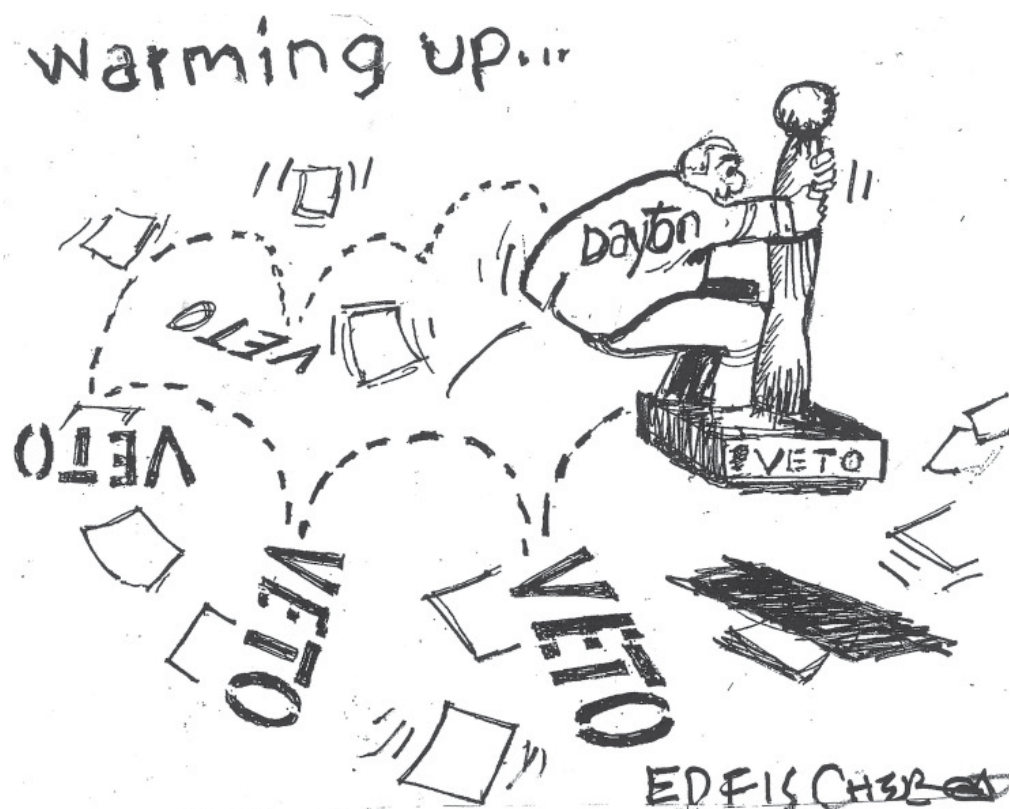
Advance: \$12 Adult \$6 Student
 Online at www.staplesmotleyarts.org
 *Advance ticket sales close at noon business day prior to performance.

Door: \$15 Adult \$7 Student
 Credit card sales are not available at the door.
 All seats are General Admission. No Reserved Seating.

Underwritten by **ERNIE'S** Staples Motley Area **Arts Council**

Staples Motley Area Arts Council activities are sponsored in part by a grant from the Five Wages Arts Council provided by the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature from the Minnesota arts and cultural heritage fund with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on Nov. 4, 2008.

218-894-1112



Consider nonviolence as way of life, politics, says Pope Francis

By Rev. John Dear

Pope Francis released the annual World Day of Peace Message for January 1, 2017, called "Nonviolence-A Style of Politics for Peace." This is the Vatican's fiftieth World Day of Peace message, but its first statement on nonviolence, in the tradition of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in history.

We need to make "active nonviolence our way of life," Francis writes at the start, and suggests nonviolence become our new style of politics. "I ask God to help all of us to cultivate nonviolence in our most personal thoughts and values," Francis writes. "May charity and nonviolence govern how we treat each other as individuals, within society and in international life. When victims of violence are able to resist the temptation to retaliate, they become the most credible promoters of nonviolent peacemaking. In the most local and ordinary situations and in the international order, may nonviolence become the hallmark of our decisions, our relationships and our actions and indeed of political life in all its forms."

In his historic statement, Pope Francis discusses the violence of the world, Jesus' way of nonviolence and the viable alternative of nonviolence for today. His message is a breath of fresh air for all of us, and offers a framework for all of us to envision our lives and our world.

Violence is not the cure for a broken world

"Today, sadly, we find ourselves engaged in a horrifying world war fought piecemeal," Francis writes. "It is not easy to know if our world is presently more or less violent than in the past, or to know whether modern means of communications and greater mobility have made us more aware of violence or, on the other hand, increasingly inured to it. In any case, we know that this 'piecemeal' violence, of different kinds and levels, causes great suffering: wars in different countries and continents; terrorism, organized crime and unforeseen acts of violence; the abuses suffered by migrants and victims of human trafficking; and the devastation of the environment. Where does this lead? Can violence achieve any goal of lasting value? Or does it merely lead to retaliation and a cycle of deadly conflicts that benefit only a few 'warlords'?"

"Countering violence with violence leads at best to forced migrations and enormous suffering," Francis continues, "because vast amounts of resources are diverted to military ends and away from the everyday needs of young people, families

experiencing hardship, the elderly, the infirm and the great majority of people in our world. At worst, it can lead to the death, physical and spiritual, of many people, if not of all."

Practicing the nonviolence of Jesus

Jesus lived and taught nonviolence, which Francis calls "a radically positive approach." Jesus "unfailingly preached God's unconditional love, which welcomes and forgives. He taught his disciples to love their enemies (cf. Mt 5:44) and to turn the other cheek (cf. Mt 5:39). When he stopped her accusers from stoning the woman caught in adultery (cf. Jn 8:1-11), and when, on the night before he died, he told Peter to put away his sword (cf. Mt 26:52), Jesus marked out the path of nonviolence. He walked that path to the very end, to the cross, whereby he became our peace and put an end to hostility (cf. Eph 2:14-16). Whoever accepts the Good News of Jesus is able to acknowledge the violence within and be healed by God's mercy, becoming in turn an instrument of reconciliation."

"To be true followers of Jesus today also includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence," Francis writes. He quotes Pope Benedict who said that the command to love our enemies "is the magna carta of Christian nonviolence. It does not consist in succumbing to evil..., but in responding to evil with good and thereby breaking the chain of injustice."

Nonviolence is more powerful than violence

"The decisive and consistent practice of nonviolence has produced impressive results," Francis explains. "The achievements of Mahatma Gandhi and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in the liberation of India, and of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr in combating racial discrimination will never be forgotten. Women in particular are often leaders of nonviolence, as for example, was Leymah Gbowee and the thousands of Liberian women, who organized pray-ins and nonviolent protest that resulted in high-level peace talks to end the second civil war in Liberia. The Church has been involved in nonviolent peacebuilding strategies in many countries, engaging even the most violent parties in efforts to build a just and lasting peace. Let us never tire of repeating: 'The name of God cannot be used to justify violence. Peace alone is holy. Peace alone is holy, not war!'"

"If violence has its source in the human heart, then it is fundamental that nonviolence be practiced within families," Francis writes. "I plead with equal urgency for an end to domestic violence and to the abuse of women and children. The politics of nonviolence have to begin in the home and then spread to the entire human family."

"An ethics of fraternity and peaceful coexistence between individuals and among peoples cannot be based on the logic of fear, violence and closed-mindedness, but on responsibility, respect and sincere dialogue," Francis continues. "I plead for disarmament and for the prohibition and abolition of nuclear weapons: nuclear deterrence and the threat of mutual assured destruction are incapable of grounding such an ethics."

The Vatican Conference on Nonviolence

Last April eighty of us from around the world met

for three days at the Vatican to discuss Jesus and nonviolence with Vatican officials, and ask the Pope to write a new encyclical on nonviolence. Our meetings were very positive and constructive. While there, our host Cardinal Turkson, head of the Pontifical Office of Justice and Peace, asked me to write a draft of the 2017 World Day of Peace on nonviolence for Pope Francis. I sent in a draft, as did my friends Ken Butigan, Marie Dennis and the leadership of Pax Christi International. We are glad to see our main points, even some of our exact language, in today's message.

We are going to encourage the Vatican to reject the just war theory once and for all, fully embrace Jesus' methodology of nonviolence, and make nonviolence mandatory throughout the global Church.

Pope Francis' invitation to nonviolence

"Peacebuilding through active nonviolence is the natural and necessary complement to the Church's continuing efforts to limit the use of force by the application of moral norms," Francis concludes. "Jesus himself offers a 'manual' for this strategy of peacemaking in the Sermon on the Mount. The eight Beatitudes (cf. Mt 5:3-10) provide a portrait of the person we could describe as blessed, good and authentic. Blessed are the meek, Jesus tells us, the merciful and the peacemakers, those who are pure in heart, and those who hunger and thirst for justice. It is a challenge to build up society, communities and businesses by acting as peacemakers. It is to show mercy by refusing to discard people, harm the environment, or seek to win at any cost. To do so requires 'the willingness to face conflict head on, to resolve it and to make it a link in the chain of a new process.' To act in this way means to choose solidarity as a way of making history and building friendship in society."

His concluding words should be a source of consolation as well as a challenge for us in the days ahead:

Active nonviolence is a way of showing that unity is truly more powerful and more fruitful than conflict. Everything in the world is interconnected. Differences can cause frictions, but let us face them constructively and non-violently.

I pledge the assistance of the Church in every effort to build peace through active and creative nonviolence. Every such response, however modest, helps to build a world free of violence, the first step towards justice and peace. In 2017, may we dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds and to becoming nonviolent people and to build nonviolent communities that care for our common home.

As we prepare for years of resistance to come, I hope we can take heart from Pope Francis' global call for nonviolence, help spread his message, and do our part to become nonviolent people, build the global grassroots movement of nonviolence and uphold the vision of a new world of nonviolence.

Rev. John Dear, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is an American Catholic priest nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. His website is FatherJohnDear.org.

Wadena County Board penalizes top officials with 2017 salary plan

By Rin Porter

When you spend 40 to 60 or even 70 hours a week doing your local government job, it probably doesn't occur to you that your bosses will deny you the same pay increase that everyone else in your organization gets when the bosses approve annual pay scales.

Your job is described in Minnesota Statutes and has extensive responsibilities. For example:

The Auditor/Treasurer: responsible for every penny of the \$22 million the county spends annually, for conducting elections, for serving as clerk to the county board, among a long list of other required duties.

The Sheriff: responsible for hiring and assigning sworn peace officers to protect and serve, and for operating the county jail that houses prisoners.

The County Attorney: responsible for deciding whether to charge people with crimes and for prosecuting hundreds of cases each year, for protecting at-risk children and for serving as attorney for the county board.

The Recorder: responsible for logging in every marriage license, birth certificate, land deed, death certificate or any other official document a county issues, and for making the documents available to citizens according to relevant statutes.

The County Engineer: responsible for the construction and maintenance of every foot of county road and every bridge that is part of a county road, and supervising every county construction and remodeling project and representing management during union negotiations.

When you hold any of these jobs, you might expect to be treated equally with other department heads when salaries are established annually.

But not if you work for Wadena County as the Auditor/Treasurer, Sheriff, County Attorney, Recorder or County Engineer.

If you are one of those five elected or appointed officials, you can expect to be paid at a rate lower than that of the other 150 full-time employees of Wadena County in 2017.

And don't expect for your hard work and dedication to be acknowledged either.

No "atta-girls" or "atta-boys", no public thanks, or jobs well done for this bunch.

And the reasoning behind this treatment?

The reasoning, provided by Commissioner Dave Hillukka, who led the push to penalize the five officials, is that the officials already make too much money. They should not receive the pay increases of 2.5 percent next year, to bring them into equivalence with other employees of Wadena County, because Wadena County is a small county and because the top three jobs in Todd County are paid slightly less than the proposed salaries for the top three jobs in Wadena County.

This is the second time in recent years that a three-commissioner majority refused to provide the elected officials with pay increases equal to those received by all other employees. They did it in 2012 as well. In 2009, 2010 and 2011, the elected officials' salaries were frozen at their 2008 rates. In 2015, three of the elected officials received a 5.5 percent raise to help make up for the lack of raises in previous years, but the Auditor/Treasurer was denied the 5.5 percent raise.

At most organizations in the U.S., if a person does his or her job well, is qualified by education and/or experience for his or her job, shows dedication to his or her work, makes personal sacrifices to allow more time for the job above and beyond 40 hours per week and is respected by peers and subordinates, then the person receives rewards in the form of regular pay increases that are similar to or greater than what other employees receive.

But not if you work for Wadena County as an elected or appointed official, according to Hillukka, Commissioner Rodney Bounds and Commissioner Sheldon Monson. If, in their opinions, you make too much money, then you won't be treated the same as other department heads. So don't expect anything more. Expect to be criticized, denigrated and kept as one of the lowest-paid officials in your position in the State of Minnesota.

Rin Porter has covered the Wadena County Board of Commissioners for several years as a freelance reporter.



Staples World

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

Fairness: The Staples World tries 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.

Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

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Public Notices

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



Winter reading program offered at Staples Library

The Staples Public Library is offering the following programs:

Winter Reading Program Jan. 3 to Feb. 28

Teens and adults are invited to register for the Winter Reading Program at the Staples Public Library Tuesday, Jan. 3 to Tuesday, Feb. 28. The program theme is Escape the Ordinary. Keep track of the books you read to qualify for prize drawings. Stop by the library desk to register, and for Winter Reading

Program bingo cards and instructions.

Minnesota Workforce Center Visit - Jan. 5

A Workforce Center staff person will be available at the Staples Public Library on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2-4 p.m. to assist adult job seekers with resumes, accessing online job sites, and other one-on-one assistance.

For more information contact the library at 218-894-1401.

The Staples Public Library is located at 122 6th

St NE Staples: the hours are: 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.



Elves and reindeer sing at Care Center

Students of Magic Forest preschool in Staples sing for Lakewood Care Center residents during their activity time. Pictured, front row from left, children dressed as elves, Tatum Hull, Brantley Cleveland, Bentley Jansson, Callie Denny and Connor Reeck. Back row from left, reindeer children are Nora Nelson, Berkley Nelson, Reece Hull, Bentley Leslie and Meredith Hoemberg. The preschool is planning monthly trips to visit the Care Center for various activities. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Lakewood Health System provides Telestroke services

Lakewood Health System now provides Telestroke services to patients thanks to a partnership with St. Cloud Hospital Stroke Center. Telestroke users video conferencing technology to allow a stroke neurologist from St. Cloud Hospital Stroke Center to evaluate a patient in another hospital, view diagnostic scans and recommend treatment.

Through Telestroke, interventions such as intravenous tissue plasminogen activator (IV tPA) medication can quickly be administered within a four-and-a-half

hour window from the onset of symptoms to work best. IV tPA is the only U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved drug for the treatment of acute ischemic strokes.

"At Lakewood Health System patients are able to have a real-time evaluation by a St. Cloud Hospital stroke neurologist via Telestroke," said Lakewood Acute Stroke Ready Coordinator, Carrie Athmann, RN. "The capabilities of this evaluation allow for faster treatment and improve the patients' outcome from a stroke."

Organizational meeting for school board set

The Staples Motley School Board will hold their annual organizational meeting Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 7 p.m. in the Staples-Motley High School media center.

Agenda items include:
• Oath of office for newly elected board members.
• Election of board chair, vice chair, clerk and 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.

Educational Opportunities

January 24

55+ DRIVER IMPROVEMENT REFRESHER COURSE Tues., Jan. 24, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m., Staples Community Center, 425 4th St. NE. Sponsored by MN Highway Safety Center. For info., to register, 1-888-234-1294.

Mark Your Calendar

Weekly events

ONGOING EVENTS POSTED LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH:

AA MTGS AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL MAIN CAMPUS, STAPLES, CLASSROOM A: Tuesdays, 8 p.m.; Thursdays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 7 p.m. For info., 218-371-0573.

AA MTGS AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, PILLAGER: Tuesdays, 8 p.m.; Thursdays, 7 p.m. For info., 218-839-1804.

AA MTGS AT MOTLEY FREE METHODIST CHURCH: Wednesdays, noon; Fridays, noon. For more info., 218-296-1512.

AA MTG AT MOTLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Mondays, 8 p.m. For info., 218-639-9743.

AA MTG AT STAPLES COMMUNITY CENTER: Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. For info., 218-639-8048.

AA MTGS IN VERDALE: Tuesdays, 8 p.m.; Fridays, 8 p.m., 106 S. Thompson. For info., 218-640-1365 and 218-640-6644.

AL-ANON MTG Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Staples United Methodist Church. For info., 218-296-1123.

CHRISTIANS IN RECOVERY - ALCOHOLICS VICTORIOUS MTG Thursdays, 7 p.m., Staples Alliance Church. For info., 218-640-5679.

DUAL RECOVERY ANONYMOUS MEETING Fridays, 4 p.m., Northern Pines, 11 2nd St. SW, Wadena. For info., 218-631-1714.

TOPS (TAKING OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY) CHAPTER #1077 OF STAPLES Tuesdays, Faith Lutheran Church, 430 12th St. NE, Staples. Weigh-in, 5 p.m., meeting follows. For info., 218-639-0544.

WEIGHT WATCHERS MTG Mondays, Lakewood Health System main campus, Staples. Weigh-in, 5 p.m.; Mtg., 5:30 p.m. For info., 218-639-4888.

Monthly events

'ADULT SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS' SUPPORT GROUP MTG third Tuesday, 6:30 - 8 p.m., Tri-County Health Care, Wadena. For info., 218-631-5228.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOC. CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP MTG first and third Thursday,

3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Reflections Intensive Outpatient (IOP) rm., Lakewood Health System's senior campus, Staples. For info., 218-894-8288 or 218-894-8195.

FOOT CARE CLINICS sponsored by Lakewood Health System, first Tuesday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., LHS, Staples clinic; third Thursday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Scandia Valley Town Hall. For appt., 218-894-8080.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP MTG sponsored by Tri-County Health Care, first Tuesday, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., TCHC, Wadena. For info., 218-631-5228.

LYME DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP MTG second Monday, 6 p.m., Staples Alliance Church. For info., 218-296-2352.

MEMORY LOSS SUPPORT GROUP FOR CAREGIVERS MTG second Thursday, 2:30 p.m., Tri-County Health Care, Wadena. For info., 218-632-8733.

MOTLEY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MTG second Tuesday, 1 p.m., Motley City Hall. For more info., 218-352-6137 or 218-352-6699.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP MTG second Thursday, 3:30 - 5 p.m., Lakewood Health System Senior Campus, Staples. For info., 218-894-8393.

'PARENTS WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD' SUPPORT GROUP MTG second Monday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Wesley Conference Rm. at Tri-County Health Care, Wadena. For info., 218-631-5228.

SENIOR CITIZENS MTG AT LEADER HALL third Tuesday. Potluck lunch, 11:30 a.m.; blood pressures, 11:30 a.m.

SENIOR HEALTH CLINIC sponsored by Wadena County Public Health, second Wednesday, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., at Wadena County Public Health, 22 Dayton Ave. SE, Wadena. Health screenings include blood pressure, foot care, health info. and referrals. For info., 218-631-7629.

STAPLES MOTLEY EARLY CHILDHOOD COALITION MTG second Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Staples Family Center. For info., 218-894-1897, or

smecc@isd2170.k12.mn.us.

TODD COUNTY REPUBLICANS MTG third Thursday, 8 p.m., Church of Christ, Browerville. For info., 320-533-1119.

WAHOO VALLEY AREA MN DEER HUNTER'S ASSOCIATION MTG second Tuesday, 7 p.m., Wahoo Valley. For info., 218-640-5423.

WOMEN OF TODAY MTG first Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Landmark Inn, Staples.

January 5

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC sponsored by Todd County Health & Human Services, Thurs., Jan. 5, Lakewood Health System Sr. Campus, Staples. For info., appt., 320-533-4652.

CHILD & TEEN CHECKUPS CLINIC sponsored by Todd County Health & Human Services, Lakewood Health System Sr. Campus, Staples. For info., appt., 320-533-4652.

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

Candlelight hike, L. Falls

A free 'New Year's Eve Candlelight Hike' will be held Saturday, Dec. 31, 5 - 8 p.m., on trails between the Lindbergh Historic Site and Weyerhaeuser Museum in Little Falls.

Both museums will be open for self-guided tours and refreshments. For more information, call 320-616-5421. Open to the public.

Dances in Nimrod

Dances will take place at the Nimrod Bar & Grill on Sundays, 2 - 4 p.m., beginning Jan. 1. Lessons offered the first hour. Variety of dance styles, including swing, Cajun stomp, waltz, polka, two step, salsa. For more information, to sign up, call Dee at 320-290-6120.

Join Us Saturday Dec. 31 for our New Years Eve Party
* Play
Let's Make A Deal at 8pm
* Party Favors
* Lots of Fun
Meat Raffle Fri. Dec. 30, 5:30
B & B's Sports Bar & Grill
Staples 894-2661

COZY THEATRE
Wadena, MN
Screen **HELLO OVER 2ND WEEK!**
FRI. THRU THURS. DEC. 30 - JAN. 5
FRI. SAT. SUN. 2 SHOWS AT 7:15 & 9:30
MON. THRU THURS. 1 SHOW AT 7:15
MATTINES SAT. & SUN. DEC. 31 & JAN. 1 AT 1:30 PM

Screen **HELLO OVER 2ND WEEK!**
FRI. THRU THURS. DEC. 30 - JAN. 5
FRI. SAT. SUN. 2 SHOWS AT 7:10 & 9:30
MON. THRU THURS. 1 SHOW AT 7:10
MATTINES SAT. & SUN. DEC. 31 & JAN. 1 AT 1:25 PM

Screen **HELLO OVER 3RD WEEK!**
FRI. THRU THURS. DEC. 30 - JAN. 12
FRI. SAT. SUN. 2 SHOWS AT 7:00 & 9:30
MON. THRU THURS. 1 SHOW AT 7:00
MATTINES SAT. & SUN. DEC. 31 & JAN. 1 AT 1:15 PM

PASSENGERS
ROGUE ONE

MATTINES AND TUESDAY BARGAIN NIGHT
ALL SEATS ONLY \$5.00!
www.cozytheatre.com

TEN HI
Motley / 352-6310
On/Off Sale/Off-Sale Specials

New Year's Eve: 'Nathan Allen'
The "maniac of magic" Part magician/part comedian.
*Shows at 7 & 10 p.m.
NO COVER CHARGE.
Reservations appreciated.
*Snacks *Drink Specials
*Party Favors
Friday, Dec. 30
***FREE Jukebox**
NO MINORS AFTER 8:00 P.M.

Ring in the NEW YEARS Here!
Saturday, Dec. 31

Live Music 9:30- Midnight
Lizzy Juergens & Jeremy Boxhorn Acoustic Rock Music

• Drink Specials
• Free Munchies
• Party Favors

894-9979
Staples
Lefty's
STAPLES

Saturday, Dec. 31 New Years Eve

• Rack of BBQ Ribs •
• Surf & Turf •
6 oz Sirloin Steak and 3 Breaded Butterfly Shrimp
• Stuffed Pork Loin •
With Bearnaise Sauce
YOUR CHOICE

Choice of potato, vegetables, Texas toast, soup or salad and a special dessert

\$13.99

Happy New Year From All Of Us!!

Countryside Restaurant
Hwy 10 S. Motley
218-352-6777

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Sunday BRUNCH Buffet

*** Shrimp * Ribs**
*** Chicken * Ham**
with all the fixins
PLUS Soup & Salad Bar ALSO Dessert

Brunch - 10 am - 4 pm
Buffet - 4 pm - 9 pm

BRICKS TRAVEL CENTER
352-6677
265 Hwy 10 W. Motley

Holiday Deadlines

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

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

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

Staples World



∞
Obituary

Ardith Schmith



Everyone welcome with great food and conversation. She greeted people by their first name and always asked about the family. She was the first to send food to those in need and was quick with a story whether it be at the River Inn or on the golf course. Ardy hosted many social and family gatherings from large family Thanksgiving meals, to the annual River Inn golf tournament, weddings and other social events.

Ardith A. (Ardy) Schmith, 84, a long-time resident of Aldrich, passed away December 25, 2016.

A celebration of life will be held at the Congregational Church in Staples, at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 29, 2016.

Arrangements are with the Brenny Funeral Chapel, Staples.

Ardith was born January 1, 1932, to Albert "Red" Nelson and Leona (Gibbs) Nelson.

She owned the River Inn in Aldrich for over 40 years, where she made ev-

She is survived by two daughters, LuJean (Steve) Larson of Nisswa and Jackie (Chuck) Anderson of Monticello; one sister, Rita Stone of Staples; one brother, Larry (Romelle) Nelson of Perham; seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Andy Schmith; four brothers, Arvid Nelson, Darrell (Tuffy) Nelson, Leo (Buzz) Nelson and William (Billy) Nelson and one sister, Rayma Thorn.

w52c A0006B2016DC22



A Christmas musical

"Twinkle and the All-Star Angel Band" was presented Dec. 21, by Sacred Heart Area School students in grades first through fifth, at Sacred Heart Church in Staples. Angels prepared for their annual Christmas musical and this year angel "Gladys" (Ashlyn Vogel) wanted to perform a drama. Angel Gabriel (Zachary Icllrvay) was worried humans had forgotten the true meaning of Christmas, so Gladys and her cherubs brought the true meaning of Christmas into their program, through song, followed by the audience joining in singing of "Silent Night". The program was directed by RoAnn Trout. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)



Baby in a manger

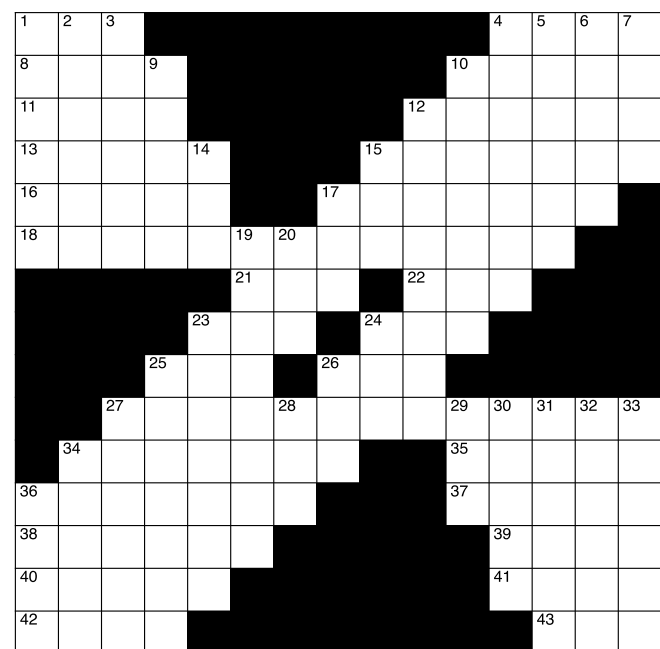
Pre-school and kindergarten students at Sacred Heart Area School, Staples presented their Christmas program at 6 p.m., Dec. 21 with singing and speaking parts on how the animals came to adore baby Jesus.

A song for baby Jesus

Angel Marvel-Ann/Twinkle (Lauren Rutten), center, one of the soloists in the Christmas program, sang "Jesus, The Morning Star", with Angels Gladys (Ashlyn Vogel), left and Crystal (Emali Jimenez), right joining in.

∞
Crossword Puzzle

Week 52

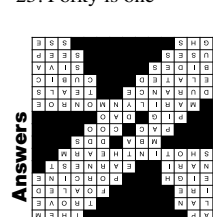


CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Way to fish
- 4. Not us
- 8. M*A*S*H* actor
- 10. A store of valuable things
- 11. Bring on
- 12. Gave birth to horse
- 13. British poet Hunt
- 15. Swine-like
- 16. Asteroid 1532
- 17. Devout
- 18. A boost
- 21. Licensed for Wall Street
- 22. Tooth caregiver
- 23. Political action committee
- 24. Make a soft murmuring sound
- 25. Porky is one

- 26. Taoism
- 27. 1950s sex symbol
- 34. Imprisonment
- 35. Small freshwater ducks
- 36. Happening later than it should have
- 37. Unit of measurement
- 38. Coen Bros' "The Dude" does this
- 39. The destroyer (Hindu)
- 40. Kids take these to school
- 41. Flow or leak through
- 42. East Greenwich High School
- 43. Midway between south and southeast

- 7. Native of ancient Asian kingdom
- 9. Black (Span.)
- 10. Destructive storm ducks
- 12. Condemn beforehand
- 14. Baseball players do this
- 15. Exclamation that denotes disgust
- 17. When you expect to get there
- 19. Dreams up
- 20. Peacock network
- 23. Robbers
- 24. Beverage container
- 25. Celebrations
- 26. A way to change color
- 27. Bullheaded
- 28. Type of visual display
- 29. Easily purchased type of medication
- 30. City along the western Rhine
- 31. Animal disease
- 32. Martinis have these
- 33. Run away
- 34. Remove errors from
- 36. Slugger Ruth



CLUES DOWN

- 1. Many-colored flower
- 2. Strangers
- 3. One who is outcast
- 4. Transmitters
- 5. Theory of interconnection
- 6. Happening

Christmas at St. John's

The children of St. John's Lutheran Church in Motley led the service Sunday, Dec. 18, telling of the Christmas story through acting, narration and music, a program called "His Name Is Jesus!".

Front row, left to right: Abigail Blair, Laney Danielson, Kristofer Thompson, Lucas Blair. Second row: Bridget Danielson, Jon Blair, Nicholas Barg. Back row: Torii Nienow, Katie Blair, Jaelyn Jordahl, A.J. Nienow, JayDe Jordahl, Tessa Danielson. (Submitted photo)



Dec. birthday and anniversary wishes

The monthly birthday and anniversary party was held Dec. 13 in the Senior Citizen's room at the Staples Community Center. Celebrating her birthday was Mary Jane Volesky, front and anniversary couples were: Charlie and Kathy Crews, left (16 years) and Gene and Iris Floistad right, (61 years). Personalized cards and decorated cakes along with everyone singing the Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary songs was enjoyed by the celebrants. The party followed a Christmas theme with a short program, prize drawings, followed by a meal. The January party will be held on January 10; call 218-894-2556 to RSVP. (Submitted photo)

∞
Hello World
∞

BIRTHS AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL INCLUDED:

Born to Tevor and Erin Balbach of Henning, a baby girl, Brynlee Amelia weighing six pounds, nine ounces on December 16, 2016.

Born to Todd and Meghan Waldoch of Flensburg, a baby girl, Lillian Marie weighing six pounds, 15 ounces on December 17, 2016.

Born to Heidi Hodgden and Matt Bollig of Brainerd, a baby girl, Claire Ann weighing seven pounds, eight ounces on December 17, 2016.

Born to Ryan and Renee Kroll of Staples, a baby boy, Liam Ryan weighing eight pounds, 12 ounces on December 19, 2016.

Born to Michael and Sarah Beierman of Brainerd, a baby boy, Nicholas Dale weighing six pounds, 14 ounces on December 19, 2016.

Born to Steffanie Burton and Mitchell Steffen of Brainerd, a baby girl, Zoe Thomas weighing seven pounds, three ounces on December 21, 2016.

Born to Christina Hove and Kevin Heschke of Staples, a baby boy, Eli Hans Joseph weighing seven pounds, 14 ounces on December 22, 2016.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE BY SEALED BID/PUBLIC AUCTION

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

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

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

Sellnow Law Office
229 Central Avenue
Long Prairie, MN 56347

Todd County Website
www.co.todd.mn.us

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

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

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

That part of the South-

east Quarter of the South-west Quarter, Section 17, Township 129 North, Range 33 West, Todd County, Minnesota, described as follows:

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

thence on a record bearing of North 74 degrees, 50 minutes 00 seconds West along the northwesterly extension of the northerly line of said Lot 2 a distance of 427.32 feet to the point of beginning of the land to be described;

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

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

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

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

Containing 1.32 acres more or less

AND

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Containing 0.71 acre more or less.

Rod Erickson
Todd County Commissioner
Chairperson

50-52pnc

NOTICE LAKE SHORE AERATION WARNING LAKE SHAMINEAU

Beware open water and thin ice. Aeration to occur on south shore along Lakeshore Drive beginning January 5, 2017 until April, 2017. For inquiries call 612-810-4200.

52-1pnc

FILING NOTICE BARLETT TOWNSHIP

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

Jan Jares, Clerk

51-52pnc

FILING NOTICE FAWN LAKE TOWNSHIP

Fawn Lake Township is accepting filings for:

-Supervisor for a three (3) year term

-Treasurer for a two (2) year term

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

Please contact Kelly Miller at 218-531-0287 to file for these offices.

Kelly Miller, Clerk

52-1pnc

FILING NOTICE MORAN TOWNSHIP

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

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

Teresa Wagner, Clerk

51-52pnc

FILING NOTICE THOMASTOWN TOWNSHIP

Thomastown Township will hold an election of one supervisor for a three (3) year term and the treasurer for a two (2) year term. The filing period for these offices opens on January 3, 2017 and closes on January 17, 2017 at 5 p.m. To file for office, contact Joy Weyer at 218-894-1028.

Joy Weyer, Clerk

52-1pnc

Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

ISD #2170 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING #9 Monday, Nov. 21, 2016, 7:00 p.m. High School Media Center

MINUTES Call to Order

The meeting was called to order with Freeman, Hoernberg, Lund, Longbella and Winkels present (comprising a quorum). Also present were Supt. Klamm; Business Manager, Patty Vacek; Principal Schmidt; Board Member Elect, Frisk; Buildings & Grounds Director, LeRoy Peterson; SMEA Rep, Bernadette Hogan and several other staff and HS students. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Lund, to adopt the agenda, clarifying that the dates in items # 15 and 16 should be 2017 (not 2016). Motion Carried

Community/School Forum

Jeff Schiltz and John Powers, of Foster, Jacobs and Johnson, presented the findings of their District Mapping Study. Over the past 10 years, SM K-12 enrollment has decreased about 16 percent (%). The number of students living in the district has also declined by seven percent (7%) but has begun to stabilize. Relatively few students open enroll into our district, however, about 350 students open enroll out - mainly to Pillager, Vernadale and Browerville.

Projected enrollment is expected to be essentially stable - declining by just two percent (2%) from 2017-2027.

A complete report will be available for download.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Longbella, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion Carried.

Finance Items:

Patty Vacek presented the Financial Report ending Oct. 31, 2016.

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Lund, to approve the Financial Report and Authorization to Pay Vouchers. Motion Carried

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Winkels, to remove Marci Lord's name from all financial institutions. Motion Carried.

Motion by Winkels,

seconded by Hoernberg, to authorize Patricia Vacek to execute agreements and/or financial documents as necessary on behalf of SM. Motion Carried

Motion by Lund, seconded by Longbella, to authorize Patricia Vacek to invest funds on behalf of the school district. Motion Carried.

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Hoernberg, to authorize Patricia Vacek and Taylor Marucha to make electronic transfers for the district. Motion Carried

Personnel

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Longbella, to accept the resignation of Jarid Johnson, HS Paraprofessional, eff. Oct. 28, 2016. Motion Carried.

Motion by Lund, seconded by Longbella to accept the resignation of Lisa Kajer, eff. June 1, 2017. Motion Carried. Thank you to Lisa for her continued service and dedication to the district.

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Winkels, to accept the retirement of Donna Bestland, eff. June 1, 2017. Motion Carried. Thank you to Donna for her many years of service and dedication to the district.

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Winkels, to accept the maternity leave request from Samantha Pommier. Motion Carried.

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Freeman, to approve the .5 contract for Jackie Engbretson; Accounts Receivable; Grade 11; eff. 12-19-2016. Motion Carried.

Other

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Lund, to grant permission for further exploration of a Science Educational Experience extended trip to Iceland in June 2018. Motion Carried

Adjournment

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Longbella, to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.

Complete minutes can be viewed at www.isd2170.k12.mn.us

52pnc

SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING #10 Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 7:00 p.m. Motley Media Center

MINUTES

Call to Order

Roll call was taken with Freeman, Lund, Winkels, Longbella and DiGiovanni present (comprising a quorum).

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Motion by Winkels, seconded by DiGiovanni to adopt the agenda. Motion Carried

Financial

Motion by Longbella, seconded by Lund, to authorize the removal of Bonnie Thoele's name from all Financial Institutions. Motion Carried

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Longbella, to authorize the removal of Roy DiGiovanni's name from all Financial Institutions. Motion Carried

Adjourn the Special Meeting

Motion by Longbella, seconded by DiGiovanni, to adjourn the Special Meeting. Motion Carried

52pnc

SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING #11 Dec. 5, 2016 Motley Media Center

Immediately following the Special Board Meeting

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order with Longbella, DiGiovanni, Winkels, Freeman, Hoernberg and Lund present (comprising a quo-

rum).

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Longbella, to adopt the agenda. Motion Carried

Levy Discussion

Discussion on the Levy Options previously reviewed along with an additional fourth option with an increase in the Long Term Facilities Unequalized (Levy increase of 7.11 percent (%)). Other underlevied areas of QCOMP and OPEB were also reviewed. The consensus seems to be going with the 5.75 percent (%) increase. The final decision will be made at the Dec. 19 regular meeting.

Facility Assessment

Facilities discussion with review of age and square footage of buildings. The option of hiring an outside firm was presented. A consulting firm would help prioritize the maintenance issues and help the board with the financial aspects. The cost ranges from 10-15 cents per square foot with the district having over 326,400 square feet. It was noted that NJPA will pay a percentage of the cost. Three firms will be asked to make a presentation to the board (one of those companies being FJ & J).

Adjournment

Motion by Lund, seconded by Winkels, to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried

52pnc

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CITY OF STAPLES 2017 Minnesota City Summary Budget Statement		
The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2017 budget information concerning the City of Staples to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minnesota Stat. Sec. 471.6955. This budget is not complete; the complete budget may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, Staples City Hall, 122 6th St NE, Staples, Minnesota. The City Council approved this budget on December 13, 2016.		
ALL BUDGETED GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS		
	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
REVENUES		
Property Taxes	\$ 854,423	\$ 871,709
Special Assessments	119,733	110,816
Tax Increments	30,000	30,000
Franchise Fees	279,000	280,000
Licenses and Permits	48,219	51,719
Intergovernmental Revenues		
Federal	128,095	127,332
State	1,176,363	1,181,539
Charges for Services	306,634	312,763
Fines and Forfeits	28,000	28,000
Interest on Investments	28,000	27,500
Miscellaneous Revenue	38,410	41,400
TOTAL REVENUES	3,038,877	3,062,778
EXPENDITURES		
Current:		
General Government	376,670	385,829
Public Safety	819,131	848,969
Streets and Highways	444,144	427,581
Culture and Recreation	88,204	87,397
Urban & Economic Development & Housing	123,352	122,773
Debt Service: Principal	442,000	463,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	302,733	278,931
Capital Outlay	920,197	859,225
Miscellaneous Current Expenditures	67,450	64,200
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,583,881	3,535,905
Excess (deficiency) of Revenues over (under) Expenditures	(547,004)	(473,127)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)		
Transfers from Other Funds	117,500	115,225
Transfers to Other Funds	(57,500)	(55,225)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	60,000	60,000
Excess (deficiency) of Revenues and Other financing Sources Over (under) Expenditures and Other Uses	\$ (487,004)	\$ (413,127)
Property Tax Levy Requirement to Fund this Budget	\$ 854,423	\$ 871,709

ENTERPRISE FUNDS 2017 ADOPTED BUDGET					
ADOPTED 2017 BUDGET					
	WATER	SEWER	LIGHT	COMMUNITY CENTER	
Sales and Cost of Sales					
Sales	\$ 549,500	\$	\$ 2,998,014	\$	\$ 3,547,514
Cost of Sales			1,822,140		1,822,140
Gross Profit	549,500		1,175,874		1,725,374
Operating Revenues-Charges for Services	40,800	598,906	243,187	119,575	1,002,468
Total Profit and Operating Revenues	590,300	598,906	1,419,061	119,575	2,727,842
Operating Expenses					
Personnel	188,525	187,757	554,362	182,129	1,112,773
Contractual Services	8,000	20,000	230,286	3,300	261,586
Supplies	13,500		25,000	8,500	47,000
Materials	50,000	65,000	42,000	4,200	161,200
Heat, Light and Power	29,500	58,000	7,500	43,000	138,000
Other Expenses (Repairs, Insurance, etc.)	49,634	66,750	67,341	49,800	233,525
Total Operating Expenses	339,159	397,507	926,489	290,929	1,954,084
Operating Income (Loss)	251,141	201,399	492,572	(171,354)	773,758
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)					
Property Taxes				58,998	58,998
State General Purpose Aid				106,356	106,356
Interest Earnings	6,000	500	4,700	6,000	17,200
Interest and Fiscal Charges	(40,141)		(39,399)		(79,540)
Capital Outlay	(45,000)	(82,500)	(187,500)	(15,000)	(330,000)
Total Non-Operating Revenue (Expenses)	(79,141)	(82,000)	(222,199)	156,354	(226,986)
Income (Loss) Before Operating Transfers	172,000	119,399	270,373	(15,000)	546,772
Operating Transfers In (Out)	(20,000)		(40,000)		(60,000)
Net Income (Loss)	\$ 152,000	\$ 119,399	\$ 230,373	\$ (15,000)	\$ 486,772
					\$ 309,979



Photos of the year: Sept. 1

Mixing technology with agriculture at the Central Lakes College Ag and Energy Center Field Day Aug. 26, kids at the AgCentric technology trailer look up as a mini-drone launches from the table.

YEAR IN REVIEW continued from page 1a

News stories share everyday activities, accomplishments of local people, businesses, schools and organizations

tournament. Members are: Jace Hoemberg, Chris Hart, Asharak White, Andrew Bates and Zach Strickland.

March 31 - Howad Weekley shares his story of how he became addicted to methamphetamines and how he ended his addiction.

April 7 - A forum about the problem of methamphetamines in the Staples area was attended by two hundred people. The forum was sponsored by Staples Motley Beyond Poverty.

April 14 - The Thriving Communities Initiative held a second meeting to get public feedback on the economics, quality of life and workforce issues in Staples.

April 21 - Lucas Jimenez and Coleman Klimek won a state speech title in the duo competition. Their speech was an adaptation of the movie "The Producers," which included singing, dancing, comedy and drama. Other individuals who placed at the state speech were: Jenessa Iverson, Alex Erickson, Olivia Klefsaas and Zach Strickland.

May 12 - Staples natives Chuck Martin, Mark Lelwica and Dan Meyer opened the Roundhouse Brewery in Brainerd.

May 19 - Staples artist Diana Johnson's art exhibition will open at the Five Wings Gallery in Staples.

May 26 - The Poplar Ladies Birthday Club is celebrating their 90th year. Since 1926, the club has

planned the annual Memorial Day program at Poplar Cemetery.

June 2 - The Staples City Council approved a resolution to create a tax increment finance (TIF) district to assist the development of a 32 to 34 unit townhome project in Staples. Roach Properties is building the townhomes.

June 9 - Tera Weyer was awarded the Student-Athlete Character Award from the National Christian College Athletic Association.

June 9 - Kevin Roline was hired as the Staples-Motley Community Education coordinator.

June 9 - National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) is recommending over \$1.5 million in Innovation Funding to directly benefit Region 5 school districts. They also recommended \$350,000 for regional projects developed by local government agencies.

June 16 - Mike and Mary Ives, along with family members Burl and Kris, announced they will build a new hotel, the Timberlake Hotel, in Staples and re-open the Town's Edge Restaurant next door to the hotel. The family owns the Timberlake Lodge in Grand Rapids, as well as several other hotels in the region.

June 16 - After 41 years of working in the Staples and Staples-Motley school district's business office, Bonnie Thoele is retiring.

June 16 - Millie Klefsaas set the state pole vault record at 12 feet and also

won the 100 meter hurdles. Max Giza placed seventh in the boys pole vault at the state meet. In golf, Andrew Israelson was named Mr. Minnesota after qualifying for the state golf meet for the fifth straight year. In girls golf, Olivia Klefsaas and Hailey Koenig advanced to the state tournament.

June 16 - The Staples-Motley FFA chapter had 45 members compete at the State FFA Convention.

June 23 - The recently completed National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) building addition in Staples reveals healthy work spaces along with locations that foster personal communication, large group gatherings and technological communication.

June 30 - The Thriving Communities Initiative Quality of Life Task Force started a list of things to do in summer in the Staples area, with the goal of 50 things that are readily available to everyone in the community.

July 7 - Dr. William Mennis is retiring after 48 years as a family practice doctor in Staples.

July 21 - Eight men's teams and four women's teams competed in the first Cardinal Alumni Basketball Tournament, drawing a crowd of fans and families to Staples Motley High School. Participants ranged in age from 14 to 78.

Aug. 4 - Lisa Bjerga of Lakewood Health System is one of 50 individuals nationally named to the Becker's Hospital Review "Rising Stars: 50 Healthcare Leaders Under 40."

Aug. 4 - "Twelve Angry Men" is being presented by Lamplighter Community Theatre of Staples and Madhatters Community Theatre of Wadena.

Sept. 8 - Motley-Staples Middle school students figured out the bus transfer station on the first day of school. With the new restart alignment, all district students in grades K-3 are in Staples, 4-7 in Motley and 8-12 in Staples.

Sept. 15 - Staples-Motley students worked with a variety of robots as they had their first exposure to Technology Mobile program.

Sept. 22 - Four local homes were painted as part of the "Paint the Town" program set up by the Staples Economic Development Authority. Homes were owned by seniors or families who were unable to do the painting themselves.

Oct. 13 - Lakewood Health System held a groundbreaking ceremony for their \$20 million clinic addition.

Oct. 20 - Staples-Motley



Photos of the year: Feb. 11

Her selfie: Dr. Charlette Moe, the guest director at the Her Voice, Her Song women's chorus program on Jan. 30, pauses between songs to snap a "selfie" with the singers from ten area high schools and the Staples Area Women's Chorus that she had worked with during the day.



Photos of the year: Jan. 7

Central Lakes College nursing students lit a candle to recite the Florence Nightingale pledge, the final step of their pinning ceremony, held on Dec. 18, after receiving pins and a rose from their instructors. It was the first event held in the newly remodeled CLC commons area on the Staples campus.

School Board candidates discuss the divide between the communities of Staples and Motley at a candidate forum.

Oct. 20 - Mary Sperley, Jordan Haglin and Mike Matanich were honored at the Staples Motley Community Foundation Awards, as was Lakewood Health System, Curves and the Staples Fire Department.

Nov. 10 - Six members of the Staples-Motley FFA Chapter earned awards at the National FFA Convention.

Nov. 10 - Lt. Col. Keith Ferdon of Motley, along with his military team, was honored during a recent Minnesota Wild hockey game.

Nov. 10 - Kira Sweeney placed seventh at the girls state cross country meet and Emmet Anderson finished 52nd in the boys race.

Nov. 17 - Steve Sveom is retiring after 24 years as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church. He and his wife Toni are moving out of town.

Dec. 1 - Dean Fearing of Staples and Robert Warnberg of Princeton had a World War II reunion of sorts recently in Staples. The two were crew members of the USS Lowndes, a supply and transport ship that was a crucial part of the Pacific Theater in World War II.

Dec. 1 - After studying population trends, economic trends and open enrollment trends, John Powers feels the Staples-Motley School District will maintain approximately the same number of students in the coming decade.

Dec. 8 - People in Staples, across Minnesota and around the country are commemorating the life of Duane Lund, the former Staples School District Superintendent who was known for accomplishing community and economic development while working for the school. Lund died on Dec. 2, at age 90.

Dec. 22 - After spending the holiday season in the middle of the Pacific Ocean last year, far from family and friends, Samantha Svendsen of Staples said she's looking forward to a white Christmas at home.



Photos of the year - June 30

(#8 Things to Do in Staples, "Stroll through the Living Legacy Gardens.")

The children's gardening program at Living Legacy Gardens takes a pond break, looking for tadpoles and fish before moving on to their art projects.



Photos of the year: May 26

Students enjoy the colorful crowd after the Staples Elementary School color run.



Photos of the year: Aug. 11

At the National Night Out event, children had the opportunity to dance with Staples Police officers Ryan Walwick and Jacob Maros.



Photos of the year: June 2

Band director Jeff Iverson enjoyed his final concert as a teacher at the school, guiding the 2016 seniors and other band members through their graduation song.

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A look back on 2016 in Motley, Cushing areas

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

A number of stories were collected throughout Motley, Cushing and the surrounding area during 2016. A few highlights of the past year are included below.

January

- The Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS) welcomed Sherry (Miller) Frisk as its new director. It's a position previously held by Sharon Stone.

- The Staples World caught up with Pam Sachs, former English teacher at Motley High School and Motley Staples Middle School. Sachs taught a total of 32 years, with the majority of that time at MHS, until the pairing with Staples. She taught at MSMS until her retirement in 1999.

February

- The Mobile Library is still going strong and since 1966, has made stops in Leader. It is currently part of the Kitchigami Regional Library, serving the counties of Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard and Wadena. Since it first began, the program has utilized four different vehicles, with the newest put into service in Nov. of 2015. The Staples World caught up with the Mobile Library during one of its February visits to Leader.

- Kindergarten teacher Ginger Stiner rallied the "troops" at Motley Elementary to create Valentine's Day cards and collect goodies to send to soldiers serving with the 682nd Engineer Battalion of the MN National Guard currently serving in Kuwait.

- Dave Rowe of Motley shared his story during Black History Month. Originally from Jamaica, Rowe moved to the United States when he was 13 years old, settling in Chicago with his mother and siblings. He subsequently spent years struggling with depression and addiction, which led to homelessness; but ultimately found inner peace and healing. As he reflected on Black History Month, Rowe recalled the speech of Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have a Dream," which always inspired him, even during his darkest days.

March

- Mitch Anderson of Cushing gave a presentation at Motley-Staples Middle School about his life-changing experience climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa the previous summer. It took the 30-year-old seven days to climb to the top of the mountain which stands 19,341 ft. above sea level. Anderson taught physical education at the middle school last year and is currently at the high school.

- The Motley Area Food Shelf (MAFS) reached



Bull riding; wings competition in Motley

Both the Motley Fair, sponsored by the Motley Fair Board; and the first-ever Motley June Fest, sponsored by the Staples Motley Area Chamber of Commerce, were held the weekend of June 17. One of the featured events at the Motley Fairgrounds was the bull riding bash which drew approximately 1,200 fans. The Motley June Fest featured a parade, music, pig races and a Wings Competition. Pictured in lower photo, from left, are June Fest volunteers and Wings Fest judges Steve Gertken, Fran Kunkel, Barb Markus, Ed Jordahl (Staples World file photos by Dawn Timbs)



their goal of raising \$20,000 during March, Food Share Month, reported Sherry Miller Frisk, director of the food shelf. "We also collected 1,194 pounds of food, of which 850 pounds was collected from elementary and middle school students from Staples and Motley," Frisk said.

April

- Mark Huber was named the "Pillager Citizen of the Year" for 2016. The award was presented to Huber April 2, at the Pillager Fiddler's Contest, by Jennifer Paananen, Pillager Fair Board member. Huber is a Scout Master for Troop 77 and Cub Master for Pack 77. Over the years, he has helped lead a number of service projects in Pillager, including work at the Pillager Fairgrounds and Wildwood Cemetery; and at the Pillager Food Shelf.

- Residents and staff at Harmony House in Motley held a 'baby shower' recently to celebrate the arrival of two new 'Serenity Baby' dolls to their facility. The handmade dolls are from Loving Hearts Nursery in St. Joseph.

May

- Shirley Shake and her daughter Emily (Shake) Tholl, both of Leader, shared Mother's Day reflections. In addition to celebrating Mother's Day May 8, the Shake family celebrated Shirley's 93rd birthday May 6. Sadly, Shirley passed away June 13.

- Dozens of athletes from 19 schools participated in the Area 5 Special Olympics Athletics Competition May 11, in Pillager.

- At their regular monthly meeting in May, the members of the Motley American Legion Tri-County Post 124 presented a plaque honoring their past post commanders. Post 124 was chartered in 1919; and has been going strong since that time.

June

- The kick off for the City of Motley's new skate park was held June 4. A number of events were planned for the day, including safety demonstrations, prize give-aways and a BBQ lunch. The skate park is located on the west side of Converse Park in Motley.

- June 10 was Terri Smith's final day working

as the City of Motley's clerk/treasurer, a job she had held for the past 12 years. She proceeded to take a leave of absence until Oct. 31, during which time she continued to receive full pay and benefits, but no accrual of vacation time. At a special meeting May 31, the Motley City Council had voted unanimously to approve Smith's separation agreement.

- At a special meeting June 28, the Motley City Council accepted the proposal of David Drown Associates (DDA), Inc., to assist the city with their search for a new city clerk/treasurer. In addition, they learned that an interim city clerk (Scott Saehr, of Pierz), was in place, thanks to the efforts of DDA. The council also approved Megan Oldakowski to work as an intern in the front office at city hall. This was made possible through NJPA (National Joint Powers Alliance), at no cost to the city.

- Motley June Fest was held for the first time, in conjunction with the Morrison County Fair June 17 - 19. June Fest was sponsored by the Staples Motley Area Chamber of Commerce.

The festivities included pig races, a parade, music and Wings competition.

July

- A 51-year-old Elk River man who went missing from a Crookneck Lake campsite July 25, was located alive on July 29, in Scandia Valley Township. The missing man, Glenn Hoppe, was reportedly in good physical condition, according to Morrison County Sheriff Shawn Larsen.

August

- Winds with reported speeds of up to 80 mph ripped through much of Cass and Crow Wing counties Aug. 4, causing extensive damage. The following October, Gov. Mark Dayton authorized up to an estimated \$91,663.50 in relief for Cass County and \$190,044 for Crow Wing County from the State Disaster Assistance Contingency Account.

- A few construction projects took place in Motley during August. These included installing a new parking lot at Motley-Staples Middle School; and a new diesel island with satellite pumps at BRICKS Travel Center.

- A 25-year-old Coon Rapids man was charged with murdering, kidnapping and sexually assaulting his friend's five-year-old daughter, Alayna Jeanne Ertl of Watkins. The girl was found dead Aug. 20, in the Wilderness Park area north of Motley.

Cass County Attorney Christopher Strandlie reported Aug. 23, that Zachary Todd Anderson has been charged with second degree intentional murder, first degree criminal sexual conduct, kidnapping; and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. On Oct. 28, a Cass County grand jury indicted Anderson on 19 counts in connection with the girl's murder.

September

- Glenn Pederson of the Oylen area shares his story of building a memorial for veterans near his home, just off of Cty Rd. 7 and 244th St. A Vietnam veteran, Pederson wanted to "do something for my buddies that didn't come back and for the ones (veterans) I didn't know."

- Construction continues in Motley. New storage units, owned by Steve Bickford, were built at the corner of Eledredge and Hwy 10; and a new Dollar General store, located along Hwy 10 on the south end of town, was well underway with completion estimated by the end of the year.

- After a full day of panel discussions, facility tours and interviews with five worthy candidates Sept. 29, the Motley City Council voted to offer the position of clerk/treasurer to Lacey Smieja of Little Falls. Final approval took place at the council's regular meeting Oct. 10; and Smieja's first official day of work in Motley was Nov. 1.

October

- A streets improvement project was completed in Motley, which included tar-

ring portions of Cimarron Drive, Postel Drive and Lil Street. In addition to tarring, the project included minor surface grading and excavation of both ditches and roads to keep water off the pavement; Class 5 aggregate supplement prior to the bituminous pavement; and simple T-type dead end treatments.

November

- The Motley City Council canvassed and accepted the results from the Nov. 8, 2016 general election for the office of mayor (a two-year term) and two (2) four-year term council members. Al Yoder was elected mayor for the term of 2017 - 2018; and Steve Johnson and Nate Douglas were elected for the term of 2017 - 2020.

- Army veteran Joyce Wille of Motley is the only woman on the Motley American Legion Post #124. She shared her story with the Staples World prior to Veterans Day Nov. 11, stating that she is proud to be a member of this organization.

- Tim and Jessica Judd of Motley, along with their four children, shared their Thanksgiving story with the Staples World. At the top of their list, they said, is their thanks to God that their 22-month-old daughter, Catherine, will be celebrating the holiday season in her own home. Catherine, who was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia last February, underwent a series of treatments and spent nearly 150 days in the hospital. As of Nov. 15, she has been declared leukemia free and the Judds believe she has been completely healed.

- Blizzard conditions swept through Central Minnesota Nov. 18. Schools closed that day and snow plows were kept busy for hours, with reports of 10 - 12 inches of snow throughout the Motley and Staples area. Residents in the Motley area reported power outages which lasted up to 26 hours; and Leader reported a snowfall of 20 inches.

December

- 2 Tall Tavern in Cushing, owned by John Brichacek of Motley, is now open for business. The Lincoln Lakes area establishment, formerly known as The Hitchin Rail, features a variety of menu items, seating for 108, pull tabs, TV screens and more. An outdoor patio area is available during the summer months.

- The third annual Bill Berndt Community Christmas Concert was held Dec. 18, at the Motley United Methodist Church. Nine groups participated, including members of the Motley-Staples School Orchestra.

- Outgoing Motley Mayor Nancy Nieken passed the gavel on to Mayor-elect Al Yoder at the close of the Motley City Council meeting Dec. 12. Nieken has served on the council a total of 14 years; the last six as mayor.



Severe windstorm destroyed buildings in Cass Cty

Barney McCoy, Leader area, stands near his barn and 70-ft. cement silo that were destroyed in the early morning hours of Aug. 4, when winds with reported speeds of up to 80 mph ripped through much of Cass and Crow Wing counties. McCoy, 82, said he woke up at 2:30 a.m. that day. "It was whistling so bad and the house was shaking." He's lived in the house since the early 1970s and this is the worst storm he can remember. Also pictured is McCoy's dog, Gentry, who was not harmed during the storm. (Staples World file photo by Dawn Timbs)

Reward increased to \$30,000 in Terry Brisk's murder case

Morrison County Sheriff Shawn Larsen states that the reward for information leading to the identification of the person who shot and killed Terrence (Terry) Brisk has increased to \$30,000. According to Larsen, other donors have come forward and wish to remain anonymous.

The Morrison County Sheriff's Office is still asking for the public's assistance in locating a Winchester Model AE 30-30 lever action rifle belonging to Brisk. The rifle is described as an older model, with a wooden stock and forearm with no sling attached. Brisk was known to carry the rifle in the

woods while hunting and at this point in the investigation it has not been located.

The sheriff's office continues to actively investigate this case along with the assistance of the BCA. All information relevant to the case is being followed up on and numerous interviews are being conducted. No arrests have been made up to this date. Larsen still believes this is an isolated incident and there is no known risk to the public.

If you have any information regarding this case, contact the Morrison County Sheriff's Office at 320-632-9233. Anyone with information may remain anonymous if they choose.



Holiday Deadlines

For the **Dec. 29 Staples World** The deadline is: **5 p.m., Dec. 22**
Jan. 5 Staples World **5 p.m., Dec. 29**

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

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Todd-Wadena Community Corrections

Todd-Wadena Community Corrections seeks one full-time Youth Worker/Corrections Agent. This position supervises youth in our diversion program as well as youth on probation for truancy. This position includes investigative report writing, collaboration with other agencies, and other responsibilities. The home office for this position is Wadena, but travel between both counties is required. Successful applicant must be highly organized and efficient and demonstrate strong written and verbal communication skills. Minimum qualifications include four-year degree in a social science field such as Criminal Justice, Sociology, Psychology, etc. and valid MN driver's license and auto insurance, and reliable transportation. Must pass agency background check requirements prior to employment. Convictions, continuances or stays for crimes other than minor traffic offenses may disqualify the applicant from being hired. Starting salary is \$19.97 per hour effective 2017.

Contact Katherine Langer, Director, Todd-Wadena Community Corrections, 221 First Avenue S, Suite 200, Long Prairie, MN 56437
Position will remain open until filled.
First round of application reviews scheduled for January 9, 2017.
 "EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

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101 Card of Thanks	301 Good Things to Eat	502 Livestock
102 In Memory	302 Lawn/Garden	REAL ESTATE
103 Lost & Found	303 Hay/Straw/Feed/Seed	601 Wanted to Rent
104 Give Away	304 Livestock	602 Apartments for Rent
106 Personals	305 Pets	603 Houses for Rent
107 Notices	306 Sporting Goods	604 Commercial for Rent
SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT	307 Household	605 Mobile Homes for Rent
201 Business Opportunities	308 Musical	606 Land for Rent
202 Childcare	309 Miscellaneous	607 Houses for Sale
203 Childcare Providers	310 Health/Beauty	608 Farms for Sale
203 Childcare Wanted	311 Firewood	609 Mobile Homes for Sale
205 Help Wanted	312 Christmas Trees	610 Land for Sale
206 Positions Wanted	313 Computers/Office Equip.	611 Business Property for Sale
207 Equipment for Rent	314 Farm Services	612 Real Estate Wanted
208 Storage	315 Camper Trailer	
209 Business Services	VEHICLES	
210 Animal Care/Supplies	401 Automobiles	GARAGE SALES
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GROWING

Manager of Business & Membership Development
 This position leads and manages the Business and Membership Development (BMD) department to achieve the objectives developed in collaboration with the Director of Cooperative Contracts and Procurement. This includes researching and developing potential partnerships and opportunities in alignment with NJPA objectives, ensuring the application of data-based decision making, developing and managing departmental budget, and developing departmental and individual staff performance metrics aligned with NJPA strategic objectives. This position has a high degree of responsibility for processes that directly contribute to the revenue generating capabilities of the organization Initial review of applications will begin February 6.

Membership Development Administrator II
 As a member of the Business & Membership Development (BMD) team, this position will administer assigned strategic sponsorship or revenue share agreements (channel partnerships), prospect and grow state and international level adoption of NJPA awarded contracts, lead Member advisory committees, represent NJPA at conferences or trade shows, assist with the development and implementation of strategies to increase use of NJPA awarded contracts by NJPA members, implement strategies intended to grow NJPA membership, assist in the process of contract category development, and play an integral role in the integrity and utilization of CRM data to inform decision making. Initial review of applications will begin January 30.

Membership Development Administrator III
 As a member of the Business & Membership Development (BMD) team, this position will develop and administer strategic sponsorship or revenue share agreements (channel partnerships), prospect and grow state and international level adoption of NJPA awarded contracts, develop and lead Member advisory committees, represent NJPA at conferences or trade shows, develop and implement strategies to increase use of NJPA awarded contracts by NJPA members, develop and implement strategies intended to grow NJPA membership, assist in the process of contract category development, and play an integral role in the integrity and utilization of CRM data to inform decision making. Initial review of applications will begin January 30.

Associate General Counsel
 Reporting to the General Counsel & Director of Government Relations, this position manages the Legal Department activities; provides day-to-day leadership that supports NJPA's strategic and tactical legal initiatives; provides effective legal advice, counsel, and support to the organization; oversees the development and administration of shared legal services; and provides support to NJPA's General Counsel & Director of Government Relations, as required. This includes developing and managing departmental budgets and individual performance metrics aligned with NJPA's strategic framework and goals. Initial review of applications will begin January 30.

Manager of Human Resources
 This position is responsible for providing leadership, management, and strategic direction for the areas of personnel and human resources. This position works to: provide services that foster an employee-oriented/high performance culture; advises all management and staff regarding policy, procedures, and regulations; and oversees responsibilities in the areas of: employee relations, performance management, recruitment/employment, employment law compliance, benefits administration, and onboarding. This position serves on Management Council. Initial review of applications will begin January 9.

Human Resources Specialist - Staff Development
 This position is responsible for performing work in human resources and staff development. This position works with the HR Manager to provide services that foster an employee-oriented/high performance culture and carries out responsibilities in onboarding and organizational development. Initial review of applications will begin January 30.

Human Resources Specialist - Benefits Administration
 This position is responsible for performing work in human resources and benefits administration. This position works with the Manager of Human Resources to provide services that foster an employee-oriented/high performance culture and carries out responsibilities in benefits administration. Initial review of applications will begin January 30.

Insurance Contract Administrator
 This position manages the vendor relationships for insurance contracts to ensure company embracement, sales growth, and contract success. This position markets Insurance/Risk management products and services to all NJPA members and potential members, regionally and nationally. Initial review of applications will begin February 20.

Use the "Start an Application" link available on our website to apply. View the full job description at www.njpacoop.org/careers.

National Joint Powers Alliance®





Camp Ripley donates to food shelf

National Guard members from Camp Ripley stopped by the Motley Area Food Shelf Dec. 23, with donations of grocery items weighing 1,164 pounds; and a monetary donation of \$185. Pictured above, from left, are CSM Mike Worden, SSG Tim Krouth, SPC Jeff Jensen, LTC Chad Sacket. Pictured in lower photo, from left, LTC Sacket, SPC Jensen and CSM Worden unload the truck. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Motley Police, Morrison County Sheriff's reports

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

Dec. 21 - The MPD issued a citation to Terry Neely, 68, for driving with a revoked license.

Dec. 15 - 21 - The MPD issued speeding citations to Andrew Larson, 34; Mohamed Aden, 22; Alexis Yerbich, 18; Alexandria Stevens, 21.

Dec. 21 - The MCSO received a call from

a resident on Aztec Rd. in Motley reporting that someone had tampered with their internet box on the side of their cabin.

Dec. 19 - The MCSO responded to a report of a vehicle in the ditch on 320th St. in Cushing.

Dec. 17 - The MCSO responded to a call from the Minnesota State Patrol reporting an accident involving a DOT plow and a car on Hwy 210 east of Motley. Staples Ambulance, Motley Rescue and Cass County Sheriff's Office notified.

New laws effective Jan. 1

The following are select new laws passed during the 2016 legislative session that take effect Jan. 1, 2017. The asterisk following the bill number denotes the language that became law. Summaries of all laws passed by the 2016 Legislature are available online from nonpartisan House Public Information Services at <http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/newlaws/#/search/2016>

Elections

Presidential primary to replace caucus election

Minnesota will change from a caucus to a primary election system during the next presidential election. A primary will allow all-day voting rather than voters coming together at a specific time on precinct caucus night.

The state's presidential primary will be held the first Tuesday in March during a presidential election year, such as March 3, 2020, or on a different date if agreed to by the major party chairs. Precinct caucuses may also continue, if the parties choose to hold them.

The primary election for other federal, state and local offices will continue to be held in August. The new law is sponsored by Rep. Tim Sanders (R-Blaine) and Sen. Ann Rest (DFL-New Hope).

When voting in the presidential primary, voters will be required to certify their agreement with the party in whose primary they choose to vote. This declaration, and the party that the voter chooses to

vote for, will be recorded and available in the public record.
HF3549/SF2985*/CH162

Employment

Workers' Compensation Advisory Council ideas to be law

Suggested changes put forward by the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council became law Aug. 1, 2016. But health care providers and insurers were given until Jan. 1, 2017, to comply with the requirement to electronically submit medical records and reports along with a medical bill.

The new law clarifies the process for attorneys claiming payment of legal fees in worker's compensation cases and eliminates the bond requirement for those appealing a decision made by the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals to the Minnesota Supreme Court. The law is sponsored by Rep. Tony Albright (R-Prior Lake) and Sen. Dan Sparks (DFL-Austin).
HF2478*/SF2398/CH110

Workers' compensation insurance retention limits to change

Insurance companies that provide workers' compensation insurance to employers can select a retention limit (similar to a deductible) that the insurance company must pay in benefits before the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association will begin covering the insurer's losses.

The new law changes the low retention limit and

adds a "jumbo" retention limit as the highest level of retention. The retention limits can be adjusted in the future by the board of the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association, subject to approval of the Department of Labor and Industry commissioner. The law is sponsored by Rep. Tony Albright (R-Prior Lake) and Sen. Dan Sparks (DFL-Austin).
HF2994*/SF2740/CH91

Insurance

Life insurance reserves to be in sync with uniform national act

A new law will require life insurance companies to use a principle-based method to determine the amount of money they must hold in reserve. The law is sponsored by Rep. Joe Hoppe (R-Chaska) and Sen. Vicki Jensen (DFL-Owatonna).

The language has been adopted by 43 states, representing 76 percent of the insurance premiums in the U.S. This means that, after the National Association of Insurance Commissioners evaluates the states' laws, the uniform act will become effective Jan. 1, 2017.

However, there are issues with the valuation manual that provides specific valuation instructions to the insurance companies. The association is currently making changes to the valuation manual, and there will be a three-year implementation period during which insurers may choose to use this new methodology.

HF3384*/SF3230/CH178

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Good play leads to 6-1 record for girls hoops

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team battled two quality opponents and came out on top, beating Aitkin 65-47 on Dec. 20 and 73-62 over Park Rapids on Dec. 22. The team is now 6-1.

"This was our best game from start to finish," said Coach Craig Wolhowe about the Aitkin game. "We competed and followed the game plan. We were unselfish and played solid as a team."

Four players were in double figures to show the team's balanced scoring. Kelsie Weite and Chelsea Nanik each had 14 points, Claire Wolhowe scored 13 and Amber Robben had 11. Coach Wolhowe and Ashley Smith gave the team a big boost off the bench, scoring seven points. Other scorers were Sam Schimpp 4 and Kierra Dumpprope 2.

Weite also had 13 rebounds and Robben had six assists and five steals. As a team, the Cardinals made 20 of 27 free throws. "That was a key factor in the outcome," said Wolhowe.

Against Park Rapids, the Cardinals pulled away at the end by keeping their composure. "Park Rapids wants you to play at a fast pace and create turnovers. For the most part I thought we handled their pressure."

Throughout the game, Staples-Motley would beat the pressure and go on



High flying defense

Chelsea Nanik stops an Aitkin player from getting a pass off. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

a run, then Park Rapids would create turnovers and make a run right back.

At the end, "we made the right decisions and made free throws to get the win," said Wolhowe.

Claire Wolhowe led the

team with 26 points and 11 rebounds. Weite scored 20 points and Robben had 15 with 7 assists. Other scorers were Nanik 8, Dumpprope 2 and Kaitlyn Longworth 2.



Third grade elementary basketball

The third grade elementary basketball program at Staples-Motley included (in alphabetical order): Melissa Anderson, Summer Anderson, Avandre Brandt, Isabel Cole, McKenzie Fletcher, Ticiana Janssen, Peyton Jares, Avery Johnson, Reid Judd, Hunter Knudson, Gabe Kroll, Conner Kuhns, Matthew Larsen, Noah Larson, Skye Larson, Pamela Lawrence, Natalie Miller, Xander Moench, Reed Olds, Eli Rutten, Alaina White, Jayme Windorski. (Submitted photos)



Second grade elementary basketball

Participating in the second grade elementary basketball program at Staples-Motley were (in alphabetical order): Josiah Burton, Adrian Caldwell, Hannah Cole, Joshua Cushing, Braylin Deleon, Anthony DiGiovanni, Emmett Djuren, Atreyu Eagle Tail, Jonathan Faulkner, Ethan Honeyman, Tessa Jensen, Thomas Johnson, Avery Killian, Madelyn Kist, Ronnie Claire Noska, Justin Olson, Madison Perius, Marquise Poncelet, Evan Schultz, Daniel Zimmerman.



Inspirational music for sporting events

The Staples-Motley pep band has been entertaining crowds before games this season with some exciting new songs and new musicians. Pictured, student Brian Sterriker, right, directs the band. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Boys click in hoop win

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team was firing on all cylinders in a 79-47 home win against Aitkin on Dec. 20, but didn't have enough firepower to overcome Pequot Lakes on the road, falling 85-70 on Dec. 22.

Trey Skeesick was the leading scorer against Aitkin with 21 points and he added nine rebounds. Gavin Smith scored 18, but also had 12 rebounds, seven steals and six assists.

Against Pequot Lakes, the Cardinals were within five at halftime but didn't stay close in the second half.

Team scores

Staples-Motley 79, Aitkin 47

Scoring: Trey Skeesick 21, Gavin Smith 18, Derek Kennedy 11, Hunter Carlson 7, Josh Lombard 7, Jack Fietek 6, Isaiah Ross-Bahn 2, Mason Rychner 2, Max Giza 2, Bentley Christensen 2, Chase Davis 1

Staples-Motley 70, Pequot Lakes 85

Smith 27, Skeesick 12, Kennedy 10, Ross-Bahn 8, Giza 6, Lombard 3, Fietek 2, Rychner 2



Score two more

Gavin Smith scores on a fast break basket in the team's win against Aitkin. Smith scored 18 against Aitkin and followed that up with a 21 point game at Pequot Lakes. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Fashionable game plan

Left, the Staples-Motley girls basketball team wasn't distracted by the crazy winter sweaters worn by coaches Nick Doll and Craig Wolhowe.



First grade elementary basketball

First graders in the elementary basketball program at Staples-Motley included (in alphabetical order): Andrew Black, Demarius Conn, Roman Engebretson, Carolyn Hoppe, Ayden Hovland, Landon King, Carter Kist, Sarah Kroll, Chloe Larson, Hunter Leslie, Vincent Ludovissie, Clara Maros, Ryker Meech, Maci Mithun, Landon Moench, Ashton Nichols, Spencer Olsen, Ally Pesola, Brooke Reisenauer, Carsen Sweeney, Vance Vejtasa, Hunter Vogt, Kalee Winter.



Kindergarten elementary basketball

Participants in the kindergarten elementary basketball program at Staples-Motley were (in alphabetical order): Jackson Alexander, Chloe Badger, Eli Bounds, Tabytha Davis, Adriane Dokken, Oscar Doll, Jessie Dukowitz, Emmitt Hageman, Annabella Hurtig, Marleigh Jensen, Aubrey Lang, Austin McMillan, Cameron Martin, Abby Miller, Blake Mongan, Vanessa Nelson, Carter Odden, Jackson Odden, Kaylee Perius, Owen Roline, Ben Rutten, Sawyer Storry, Ryder Thompson, Eva Weber, Aiden Willson.