



Memorial Day speaker

Andy Schmidt, Staples gave the Memorial Day address on May 30. Schmidt a U.S. Navy Corpsman, served as a medic attached to the marines in Okinawa and was a field medic at Camp Pendelton, California. After his military career, Schmidt spent 30 years as a state trooper. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)



Firing squad at Poplar Cemetery

Members of the Tri-County Post #124 participated at four different services on Memorial Day. These included Bridgeman Cemetery, the Motley School, Motley Evergreen Cemetery and Poplar Cemetery, where they are pictured above, providing the firing squad. See more photos on page 8a. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Carr, Birkholz see value in drug task force job

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

With the Wadena County Drug Task Force position

set to expire this year, Wadena Sheriff Michael D. Carr and Staples Police Chief Melissa Birkholz are convinced that the position more than pays for itself.

The position, part of the West Central Drug and Violent Crime Task Force, was originally implemented thanks to a grant from

National Joint Powers Alliance in 2015. Even though it was a start-up grant to get the position going, NJPA agreed to pay for a second year. Carr said he will not be able to apply for a third year, so he is planning to ask the Wadena County Board of Commissioners to fund the position

and he has statistics that show how much the position means to the county.

Since February, 2015, there have been 58 felony arrests, 20 guns seized and 2,710 grams of methamphetamine seized (approximately six pounds), with a street value of \$275,000.

In addition, burglar-

ies in Wadena County are down 13 percent, theft is down five percent, domestic incidents down 11 percent and assaults down 11 percent. Carr said most of those statistics are a result of the drug task force position.

Since many drug users are in poverty, they resort

to burglaries and theft to pay for their addiction. In addition, it costs the county more for insurance, investigations, rehabilitation, courts, jails and social services.

Carr pointed to the \$275,000 value of meth

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Hello, Readers,

By the beginning of the 20th century, the role of women in American society was changing drastically; women were working more, receiving a better education, bearing fewer children, and several states had authorized female suffrage. In 1913, the National Woman's party organized the voting power of these enfranchised women to elect congressional representatives who supported woman suffrage, and by 1916 both the Democratic and Republican parties openly endorsed female enfranchisement. On June 4, 1919, the 19th Amendment, which stated that "the rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex," passed both houses of Congress and was sent to the states for ratification. On Aug. 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment, giving it the two-thirds majority of state ratification necessary to make it the law of the land. Eight days later, the 19th Amendment took effect.

Where in the World?

Conference on Aging: **6A**

Obituaries

Gerald Motl
Bertha Nelson



Graduation was well-documented by proud families

With hundreds of cameras pointed in their direction, the Staples Motley Class of 2016 threw their caps in the air at the conclusion of their graduation ceremony on May 27. See more photos on page 8a. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Staples okays townhome TIF district

By Mark Anderson, News Editor

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.

The council held a public hearing at their May 24 meeting before approving the resolution.

Jason Murray of David Drown Associates described the details of the TIF district in relation to the townhome project, which is being done by Staples Townhomes, a company created by Roach Properties. Murray said the terms of the contract are typical of TIF districts in other cities.

According to the agreement, the city will reimburse 90 percent of

tax increments generated by the project, up to \$375,000 over a 12 year term.

The townhomes will follow TIF income guidelines in which at least 20 percent of the units will be occupied by families or individuals with incomes at or below 50 percent of the median county income, or at least 40 percent with incomes below 50 percent of

median income.

The language of the district will allow the tax incentives to also be available for other home development projects in the city, during the 26 year duration of the district. City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said the townhome project will use the district for 12 years, at which

See **COUNCIL** on page 3a

Filing period closed for state, county offices

Wadena County will have primary for two commissioner's races

The official candidate filing period for individuals interested in running for county, state and federal offices in Minnesota at 2016 closed May 31.

Wadena County will hold a primary election Aug. 9 in both commissioner districts up for election this year.

Incumbent Jim Hofer, Staples, filed for commissioner in District 2. He is being challenged by Brian Hagen and Ralph Miller, both of Verndale. Miller previously served as commissioner in that district.

In Wadena County District 4 the incumbent, Rodney Bounds, chose not

to run. Three candidates, all with Sebeka addresses, will vie for the seat - Ross Beaumont, Chuck Horsager and Murlyn Kreklau.

In Todd County three commissioner seats are up for election, but there will be no primary as two of the incumbents are running unopposed as of press time

Tuesday. They are Barb Becker, Browerville, in District 1, and Rod Erickson, Long Prairie, in District 3. In District 5 incumbent Randy Neumann, Osakis, is being challenged by Delvin Durham, Long Prairie.

In Senate District 9 DFL candidate Jason Weiner-

man, Long Prairie, will run against incumbent Paul Gazelka, Republican, Nisswa.

In House District 9A the incumbent Mark Anderson is not running again. Megg Litts, DFL, Staples, is running against John Poston,

See **FILING** on page 2a

Thank you for subscribing!

SEDA looks at housing incentives

By Mark Anderson
News Editor

The Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) looked at possible incentive packages to get more homes built in Staples, but found they are already doing many of the common incentives that other cities do.

Economic Development Director Melissa Radermacher said many cities waive annual fees for the first few years after new homes are built, but Staples doesn't charge many of the fees that are typically waived, such as park dedication fees, water tower fees and special assessments. Radermacher said the city could implement some of the fees without raising taxes by designating a portion of the city portion of the taxes as special fees, then using that as part of a

package for potential home builders.

The SEDA looked at a map of city owned lots in Staples. City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said several city owned lots that are available for building new. He also indicated two possible locations for home lots, one where the south side skating has been and another north of Prairie Ave. NE along 6th Street NE. There are also lots being offered by realtors.

The SEDA talked about incentives to get the city lots sold. SEDA board member Chris Etzler said they might consider minimum standards for houses that could be built on the lots. He pointed out that for higher-end houses, the kind that are lacking in Staples according to the recent housing study, the lot price won't make as much of a difference compared to the cost of the

house.

The SEDA explored tax abatement incentives. Nelsen said that Wadena County put a tax abatement policy in place to help people rebuild after their tornado and suggested the policy could also be used in Staples. He said Todd County's abatement policy does not include residential homes. Other ideas discussed included Staples Community Center passes for new home buyers, or to ask interested local services if they could add incentives, such as The Vintage golf course, communications companies and sanitation.

Radermacher said she would get ahold of local realtors and put together a package for the SEDA to consider. She talked about adding incentives for remodeling and redevelopment of homes.



Time and money given to Habitat

Members of the Staples Rotary Club moved their usual Wednesday meeting to the Habitat for Humanity home in Staples to help install flooring, new windows and trim. The home at the corner of 3rd Ave. and 3rd St. NE is being rehabilitated for James and Sheena Ziegler and their family, who hope to occupy it early in June. A check for over \$1,100 was also donated for the project from the Rotary Club and individual members.

Above, from left, are Rotarians Jim Vogel, Brenda Halvorson, Chuck Mayer, Marv Rothstein, Al Kolling, Seth Dokken, Chuck Horsager, Ray Garland and Del Lecy. Also pictured are Keith Schaeffer, Habitat for Humanity construction manager, and Jeanette Houle, Habitat for Humanity office manager/bookkeeper and volunteer.

At right, Rothstein and Lecy, on ladder, work on the outside of a window while inside, Kolling, left, and Dokken prepare to pull it in. (Staples World photo)



Staples Ambulance crew in service

The Staples Ambulance team at Lakewood Health System held an open house May 18, celebrating National Emergency Services Week, May 15-21. The EMS team served hot dogs and chips, gave ambulance tours, blood pressure screenings and CPR demonstrations from 5 to 7 p.m. The North Me-

morial helicopter also landed at the site. Above, left to right: Sherrie Luyster, Dave Brusewitz, Donald Brusewitz, Connie Wells, Scott Braith, Shelby Smith, Jeff Jares, Jace Engelmann, Danelle Card and Craig Wolhowe. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)

FILING continued from page 1a

Primary is Aug. 9; city, school and hospital district filing opens Aug. 2

Republican, Lake Shore.

In House District 9B incumbent Ron Kresha, Republican, is being challenged by Dustin Simmonds, DFL. Both are from Little Falls.

In Congressional District 7 two Republicans filed against incumbent Collin Peterson, DFL, Detroit Lakes. Dave Hughes, Karlstad, was endorsed by the Republican party. Amanda Hinson, Republican, Long Prairie, was also listed on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website as having filed for that seat.

In Congressional District 8 Stewart Mills, Republican, is challenging incumbent Rick Nolan, DFL.

The filing period for candidates for Staples Motley

School Board, United District Hospital Board, Staples City Council and Motley City Council is Aug. 2-16.

Municipal candidates must file with their municipal clerk. School district candidates must file with their school district clerk. Candidates for special districts, such as hospital or park districts, should contact the district's office for information on the filing process.

The school board seats currently held by Roy DiGiovanni, Chad Longbelle and Bryan Winkels will be up for election this year.

For the City of Staples the mayor and four council positions will be elected. Chris Etzler is currently mayor. The four council

seats are currently held by Doug Case, Mike Isenberg, Kevin Jenkins and Mary Theurer.

For the City of Motley the mayor and two council members will be elected. Nancy Nieken is the mayor. The council seats are currently held by Steve Johnson and Pat O'Regan.

The United District Hospital Board has seven positions up for election. The precincts and the current board members are:

- City of Motley - Lana Hansen
- Villard Township - Barb Peterson
- Moose Lake Township - Linda Dietrich
- Meadow Brook Township - Bill Haehnel
- Member-at-Large - Bob Mueller
- Poplar Township - Don Sirucek
- Staples Township - Ron Storbakken.

Candidates can find information about filing for office, along with information on campaign finance, filing a campaign committee and fair campaign practices, at www.sos.state.mn.us in the "Election Administration & Campaigns" section.

POSITION continued from page 1a

Drug task force position 'pays for itself'

seized. "Where do you think they are getting the money to pay for those drugs?" asked Carr. "They are victimizing other people to pay for their drugs." He said people who care about property and public safety should get behind the drive to make the position a part of the county budget.

There are some cost increases. Narcotic investigations are up by 52 cases and child welfare is up 25 percent in the county. Carr said the costs up front will save much more than that down the road. While drug cases are up 200 percent at the Wadena County District Court, domestic assault cases are down 46 percent and assault cases are down 26 percent.

Both Birkholtz and Carr said almost every case they investigate has something to do with drugs. "You name it, it is affected by drugs," said Carr. "You eliminate drugs, all that goes away."

Birkholz said the Staples area has gone from very few drug cases to several major busts, almost all of them due to the drug task force position. She said the word is getting out that Staples and Wadena County is no longer the place to go for drugs. "We used to hear talk about people coming to Staples and Wadena because there was no agent there," said Birkholz. "people involved with drugs don't want to come into a community with a drug task force."

The success of the task force position is due to many hours of work and a dedicated team. Carr said deputies on patrol don't have time to investigate drugs, as it takes a mini-

mum of 40 hours to make just one arrest. The position also has the unique ability to coordinate with other agencies and call in other task force agents when needed.

Carr said Wadena County also is lucky to have a county attorney who is willing to prosecute drug cases.

Right now methamphetamines are the most prominent drug in Wadena County but both Carr and Birkholz believe heroin is starting to come in from nearby communities. While methamphetamines are devastating to users and their families, heroin is a potential killer. Additives in heroin are causing multiple deaths around the country and it is now in several areas in Minnesota. "If we lost just one kid to the heroin epidemic, ask what is the value of that one kid?" said Birkholz.

"It is the worst thing that could ever come around," said Carr.

Birkholz supports the drug task force officer becoming a permanent part of the county budget

because of the direction things are going on drug enforcement. "When you get someone like the officer in the position now, you don't get rid of it," she said.

Carr agrees: "The position pays for itself 100 times over," he said.

Carr said the Wadena County Board will be setting their budget soon and he would like them to know where the public stands on the drug task force position. He said even Todd County residents in Staples who are affected by the position could have a voice in the matter.

Wadena County Commissioners are:

- Dist. 1 - Sheldon Monson, 218-640-3278; sheldon.monson@co.wadena.mn.us.
- Dist. 2 - Jim Hofer, 218-894-1152; Jim.hofer@co.wadena.mn.us.
- Dist. 3 - Bill Stearns, 218-631-2351; Bill.stearns@co.wadena.mn.us.
- Dist. 4 - Rodney Bounds, 218-445-5115; Rodney.bounds@co.wadena.mn.us.
- Dist. 5 - David Hillukka, 218-564-5400; David.hillukka@co.wadena.mn.us.

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Free
dinner

Sunday—June 12 at 4 pm
Verndale Community Center

Discover the story of Verndale's
most famous citizen

**"General Lesley J. McNair:
Unsung Architect of the
U.S. Army"**
by Mark T. Calhoun

The Verndale Historical Society will host dinner at
5:30 pm following the program. Tickets \$10
www.WadenaCountyHistory.org

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Task force makes drug, weapons arrests

On May 24 the Central Minnesota Violent Offender Task Force conducted a search warrant at the address of 32502 Cty Rd 1, Le Sauk Township, Stearns County.

The search warrant was based on information that a party was hiding at this residence and had outstanding Dept. of Correction warrants for second degree assault. The party was also identified as being armed with a loaded handgun and would be a felon in possession. Further information was received that controlled substances were being actively sold out of the residence, specifically methamphetamine.

Due to the violent history and nature of the suspect the Stearns-Benton County Sheriff SWAT team executed the warrant. The suspect, identified as Lazaro Diaz, 36, no permanent address, fled out a back door as the SWAT

team made entry into the residence.

After a brief foot chase, a tazer was deployed and Diaz was taken into custody on his warrants. He was later transported to the Stearns County Jail where he was booked.

At the time of the search warrant, several other people were also present including the homeowner, identified as Ted Thomas, 46, of Sartell. Thomas was arrested for harboring a fugitive and transported to the Stearns County Jail for booking.

A third party was discovered to have an outstanding Kandiyohi County warrant for felony drugs and was taken into custody. This party was identified as Yolanda-Maria Radzhabov, 27, of Sartell. She was transported to the Stearns County Jail and booked for her warrants.

During the search approximately one ounce

of suspected methamphetamine, two long guns and a handgun were located in the area that Diaz had been in. Additional charges are expected against Diaz upon review by the county attorney.

During the search warrant Cty Rd 1 was closed to traffic at the Heims Mill Bridge and the roundabout located at Cty Rd 1 and 120. Traffic was allowed to pass once the scene was secure and there was no danger to the public.

The task force was assisted by the St. Cloud Police Dept. SWAT team and the Stearns County Sheriff Patrol division.

The Central Minnesota Violent Offender Task Force is comprised of officers from the cities of Sauk Rapids, Little Falls and St. Cloud, and deputies from Stearns, Benton, Todd, Sherburne and Morrison counties.



‘Hooked on Fishing Not Drugs’ event

Fourth graders at Staples Elementary, Motley Elementary and Sacred Heart Area School recently participated in the ‘Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs’ event at Camp Shamineau in rural Motley. The event was sponsored by the Staples Host Lions and organized by Ron Case, Staples Police Department; and Jeremy Reeck and Jamie Dolezal with the Staples Fire Department. Several other members of the Staples Police and Fire Departments volunteered their services that day as well. Thanks to the Lions, each student received a T-shirt,

fishing pole and tackle; and lunch. They also enjoyed fishing on Lake Shamineau and reported catching (and releasing) several muskies, bass and sunfish. Pictured above, Amy Rollins and Gabby Case, SES fourth graders, head back to shore in a boat driven by Mike Rollins. Pictured, lower left, Staples Host Lions Frank Leidenfrost, Huck Holst, Ken Christensen and Kevin Roline set out lunch for the students. Pictured in lower right with their new fishing poles are Amy Rollins and Gabby Case. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



All hands on deck for school move

Staples-Motley High School teachers Marly Simmons (left) and Robert Schaffer (right) help buildings and grounds worker Dave Trantina load a trailer that is going from Staples Elementary to Motley-Staples Middle School. On May 31, teachers helped with moving classrooms between buildings to get ready for the next school year, when

all fourth and fifth grade classrooms will be at Motley. For now the furniture and boxes are set up in specific grids in the gyms until the custodial staff completes their floor cleaning and other maintenance projects in the classrooms. Teachers will come back for two days in August to get settled in their new rooms. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

COUNCIL continued from page 1a

Questions raised about TIF district

time the city could choose to decertify the district or use it for other projects.

Before approving the TIF district, council member Doug Case wanted to know more about the project, to see if there is any potential for the city to encounter problems in the future because of the project. He first questioned the sewer system load, as the plan calls for the development sewers to tie into the 8th St. sewer line, which has been plagued with odor issues. Nelsen said Boldon & Menk took a look at the additional flow and concluded that it could be a help to the odor issues by diluting the existing line

and moving it along to the treatment facility.

Nelsen said the sewer and water mains will be installed by the developer, then would be taken over by the city, just as if it were on any other street.

Terry Roach of Roach Properties was also at the meeting. He said his company would be responsible for all lawn care and snow removal on the townhome properties.

Case also asked about drainage, and was told that the development is required to have on-site stormwater treatment.

In other news, the council:

- Approved Conditional

Use Permit for Matthew Craig to construct a 30 by 40 foot storage building at his property at 209 Cleveland St. SW.

- Approved Conditional Use permit for Gerald Freese to construct a 30 by 56 foot storage building on a vacant lot at 435 2nd St. NE.
- Approved liquor licences for Lefty’s, Twisted Sisters, Bouson Enterprises, B&B’s, Staples Off Sale, Liquor Depot, Staples Food Corporation and Jackson Family Pizza; also a consumption and display permit for the Staples Fire Department Relief Association.



Flower planters

Colton Row and Corey Eckholm were among the students in the Staples Motley High School plant science class who planted flowers in planters along Highway 10 on May 19.

Plant care

Emilia Moore and Hailey Owen prepare flowers for planting.



Donation for ‘Hooked on Fishing’

Members of the Staples Fire Department and the Staples Police Department, organizers of “Get Hooked on Fishing, Not Drugs,” accepted a \$1,500 donation from the Staples Host Lions Club for the event held May 20, for fourth

grade students at Lake Shamineau. From left are Jeremy Reeck, Ron Case, Lions Club president Tom Danculovich and Jamie Dolezal. (Staples World photo by Brenda Halvorson)

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June Activities at Harmony House

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Sunday
Manicures & Massages, AM

Monday
Prayer Service with Carolyn, 10:00 AM

Wednesday, June 1
1950 Slang, AM
Sing-along, PM

Tuesday, June 7
Jazzercise/Today Is, AM
1950 Photo, AM
Lunch Outing at Truck Stop
Visiting, PM

Wednesday, June 8
1950 Craft, AM
Bubble Gum Blowing Contest, AM
Bubbles on Patio, PM
Bingo with Leader's Lions, 6 PM

Saturday, June 11
Peanuts Cartoons AM
Art Time & Word Games, PM

Tuesday, June 14
Spelling Bee & What Doesn't Belong, AM
Yahtzee, PM

Thursday, June 16
Jazzercise/Today Is?, AM
Fishing on Gull Lake, PM

Wednesday
Jazzercise/Today Is?, AM (except 06/01)

Friday
Morning Stretches, AM
Beauty Shop

Tuesday, June 21
Jazzercise/Today Is?, AM
Gardening, AM
Cookies & Milk Social, PM

Wednesday, June 22
Gloves & Fashion Reminisce, AM
Enjoy Music at Brainerd Harmony House, 12:30 PM
Bingo with Motley Lions, 6:00 PM

Friday, June 24
Sing-along, AM

Saturday, June 25
Family Life in the Fifties, AM
Art Time & Word Games, PM

Tuesday, June 28
Jazzercise/Today is?, AM
Marble Painting, AM
Music at 10 Hi

Wednesday, June 29
Make Banana Split
Cupcakes, AM
1950 Lunch
Sock Hop Party, PM

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