



Wednesday, December 23, 2020

Staples, Minnesota

\$1

Nativity scene

A manger scene made out of ice blocks graces the front of the Peter and Deb Fink home located north of Staples. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)

Weather

This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 23	28°	-8°	Snow
Dec. 24	3	-5	M. Sunny
Dec. 25	20	9	P. Cloudy
Dec. 26	22	11	M. Cloudy
Dec. 27	19	6	M. Cloudy
Dec. 28	20	8	P. Cloudy
Dec. 29	23	12	M. Cloudy

Last Year, 2019			
	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 23	26°	19°	Cloudy
Dec. 24	33	21	Cloudy
Dec. 25	33	30	Cloudy
Dec. 26	25	19	Cloudy
Dec. 27	31	23	P. Sunny
Dec. 28	33	31	Snow
Dec. 29	35	32	Snow

Average Temps:
H = 22° Low = 6°
Total Snow:
For week: .50"
Oct. - Dec. 20: 16"
Merry Christmas Everyone!

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Township filings:
9b

Obituaries

Richard Donat
Bonnie Line
David Pohl
Diane Thomas



Survey finds favorable climate for \$64 million school vote

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

A survey conducted by the Morris Leatherman Company determined that the Staples-Motley School District is facing a favorable climate to ask voters for a building referendum, two years after a similar referendum was voted down. The survey found that the public prefers the two-building option of fixing up and adding to the existing high school and elementary school, which would cost around \$64 million.

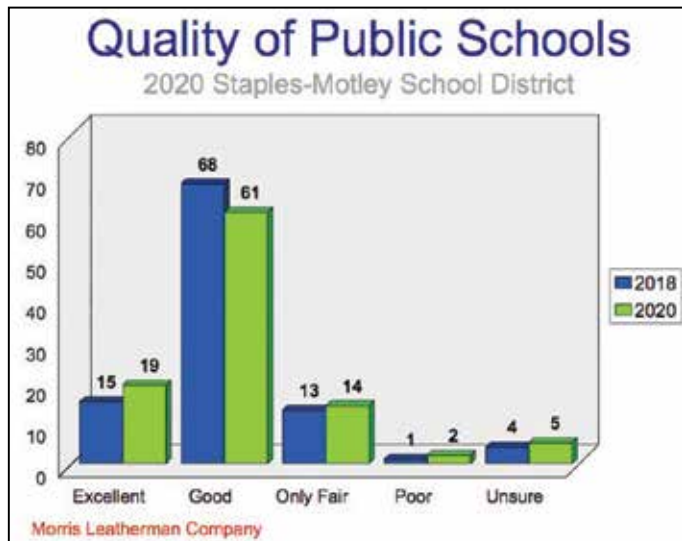
A 2019 referendum for a \$56 million project did no pass. While the current two building project has a simi-

lar scope, the higher cost is due to increased construction costs and more heavy remodeling to be done at the high school building.

At a Dec. 7 Staples-Motley School Board work session, Peter Leatherman of the Morris Leatherman Company told the board that they are finding lower support for public schools around the state, but that is not the case in Staples.

"Unlike other school districts, the atmospheres here are stable. The pandemic has not had an adverse affect on public opinion of what is happening in the school districts,"

See **SURVEY** on page 10b



School quality survey

Compared to a similar survey taken in 2018, more people rated the quality of Staples-Motley schools as excellent, with a slight increase rating it fair or poor. The numbers are the percent of responses from the survey.

Major remodeling part of school plans

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

At their Dec. 7 work session, the Staples-Motley School board looked at results of the building study conducted by ICS.

The study included the plan of refurbishing the high school and elementary school, while adding classrooms and gym space at the elementary facility and replacing the gym at the high school. This two-building proposal would cost around \$64 million.

A one site plan was also considered, which would utilize the elementary site with a two story building, adding new classrooms, a new auditorium and three gymnasiums. The cost of this proposal would be around \$80 million. The study also looked at building a completely new school north of Staples on land

owned by the school. This would cost \$93 million.

After looking at survey results, the board is concentrating on the two building option. At the elementary school, the plan called for adding two new wings and a gym, while remodeling existing wings.

In the two-building plan, the high school would see more major remodeling, with the addition of a wrestling room and a new gym to replace the old gym. The entrance would be changed to the west end of the building and the band and choir rooms would be closer to the auditorium.

"The kids are practicing band and orchestra in the hallways, this would provide practice spaces and efficiency," said Superintendent Shane Tappe. "A lot of thought was put into being

See **OPTIONS** on page 3b



FFA state champs

The Staples-Motley FFA Agricultural Communication Career Development Event Team were recently named state champions in this year's competition. Pictured above in front, from left, are Brooke Converse, Keegan Bestland, Cy Johnson. On the screen in Colton Converse.

FFA Advisor Joe Ramstad said that in this state-level competition, students attend a 15-minute press conference hosted by an agricultural client looking to communicate about an event, cause or new product. Using the information gathered, they then have 90 minutes to develop a

website, video, journalistic piece or opinion writing piece to highlight the information shared by the client. Finally, they take a multiple choice quiz covering AP-style and communication concepts along with an editing quiz where they identify and correct AP-style errors in a written piece "This contest is a doozy, but is about as real-world as they come," Ramstad said.

In addition, Johnson earned a first place award individually, and Brooke Converse earned third. The students will be advancing to the national competition next fall. (Submitted photo)

Donat scripted the growth of Staples

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

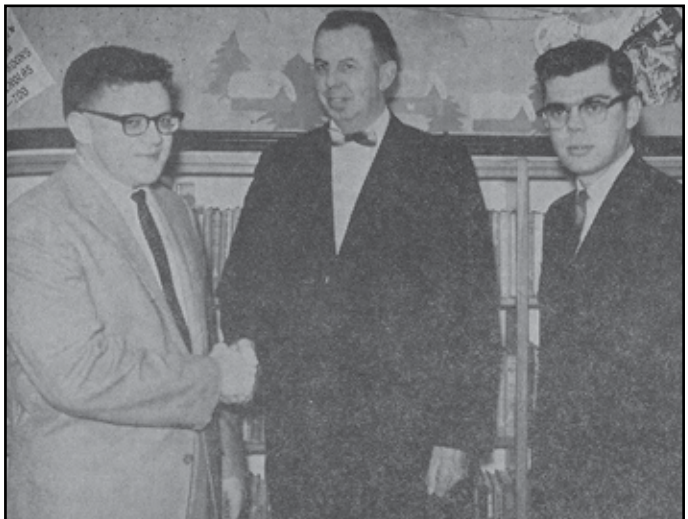
Dick Donat blended his job as teacher and school administrator into the role of economic development in Staples. Many of the amenities that still are the foundation of the Staples economy were installed with his help. Donat died Dec. 15 (see obituaries page). Some of the people who knew him were asked to comment on how he helped the community accomplish so much for the community.

"Dick was a genius networker," said Lee Jenkins, who worked with Donat on many projects. "He developed trust with everyone, networking was paramount with him."

It wasn't random networking, Donat always had a plan any time a prospective business or employee wanted to learn about Staples.

"Dick was very strategic, little was left to chance," said Staples City Administrator Jerel Nelsen. "When a prospect was coming to Staples, Dick literally scripted the day."

Donat's files from the Staples Development Commission listed the places where each tour would go, who they would meet (intentionally and "accidentally") and what each person was going to say. "Everyone had their talking points that were targeted at the prospect



Double duty to community

Dick Donat was featured in the Staples World twice in the issue of Dec. 19, 1963. Pictured, Donat, left receives his Teacher of the Year award from Staples High School Principal William Uhrich and Nick Hasselfeldt, chairman of the selection committee. Another story, also on the front page, was headlined "Richard Donat Elected '64 C&C President" when he took over leadership of the Staples Civic & Commerce Association. This combination of education and community development became the hallmark of his career. (Staples World file photo)

and their perceived needs: skilled workforce, cost of living, quality of local schools, etc.," said Nelsen.

Donat's friends Stan and Diane Carlson learned about those tours when Donat told them about recruiting doctors to town. "He planned the itinerary so that he would drive by the elementary school

when it was filled with busy students and teachers. He would drive past the manufacturing facility when the shift was ending so that a crowd of people would be by the buildings and headed to their cars, always showing meaningful activity," the Carlsons said in a written

See **DONAT** on page 10b

Thank you for subscribing!

Motley’s 2021 levy up three percent over last year’s

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

At their regular meeting Dec. 14, the Motley City Council approved the total levy for 2021 (\$389,968), an increase of 3 percent from last year’s certified levy. They also adopted the final budget for 2021 as presented. The total certified levy includes sums of money for the following funds:

- General: \$206,450
- Fire: \$22,855
- Street Improvement: \$59,769
- Beaulieu Project Bond: \$45,000
- 2011A Street Improvement: \$23,894
- 2012A Street Improvement: \$32,000.

Some of the major increases noted in the budget were a nearly \$13,000 increase in the police department; and

close to \$16,000 increase in the streets department. Police Chief Jason Borash explained that the previous year they had cut a lot from their department’s budget, but that this year there was an increase in wages. Mayor Al Yoder also noted that this department has needed equipment updates which are very expensive.

City Clerk/Treasurer Curt Bryniarski also noted that insurance went up this year, which caused an increase in the police budget.

The rise in health insurance costs was a contributing factor to the increase in the streets department’s budget as well, noted Bruce Brotherton, Public Works Director.

Prior to their regular meeting, a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing was

held to discuss the proposed 2021 budget and levy. It was noted that a preliminary levy increase of 4.79 percent had been approved in September, and that the council has the ability to reduce the amount of the levy, but not to increase it before approving the final budget.

Galen Krantz of Motley was the only member of the public in attendance at the public hearing. He shared that he lives at the Mill Pond Townhomes and expressed concerns about the increase in his taxes. The council sympathized with Krantz, but noted that the majority of his tax increase was due to the increase in his taxable market value, which is determined by the county.

In other matters the council:

- APPROVED a variance application for Ethan and

Kaycia Ellingsen at 716 Cedar Ln., Motley, allowing them to construct an 8-ft. fence at their property and;

- APPROVED a Conditional Use Permit for the Ellingsens to keep farm animals (up to 0.5 animal units, except chickens and horses) at their property.
- APPROVED the Motley Fire Department’s recommendation for the following officers: Chief, Brad Olson; 1st Asst. Chief, Bryan Stevens; 2nd Asst. Chief, Chuck Gerads; Medical Officer, Nick Dille.
- HEARD the monthly fire report which included 16 calls for November.
- APPROVED putting the fire hall garage doors up for sale on sealed bid, with the bids due on Jan. 4, at 4 p.m.
- HEARD the monthly police report, which included 79 calls for November.



Concerns voiced

At a public hearing held prior to the Motley City Council’s regular meeting Dec. 14, Galen Krantz of Motley (standing) expressed concern that his 2021 proposed taxes have gone up 16 percent from the previous year.

Mayor Al Yoder sympathized with Krantz, but noted that the majority of his tax increase was due to the increase in his taxable market value, which is determined by the county. Krantz told the council that he lives in the Mill Pond townhomes and he didn’t feel the city did much for the residents there. There are 24 units and each unit pays \$1,000 a year to the city, Krantz said. What do they get for that \$24,000? Mayor Yoder noted that the city’s police patrol that area and the fire department also answers calls there. Yoder noted that there has been an increase in wages this year and the city tries to employ two people in each department. Krantz jokingly said perhaps the city should do what the rest of the United States does when it wants to increase wages...just print more money. Pictured at the council’s table, from left, are council members Jayce Carlson and Pat O’Regan; Mayor Al Yoder; and council members Amy Hutchison and Steve Johnson. In the foreground, from left, are Curt Bryniarski, City Clerk/Treasurer; Bruce Brotherton, Public Works Director; and Jason Borash, Motley Police Chief. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

- APPROVED the police department’s request to purchase a new Cradlepoint for the squad car from DH Wireless Solutions. The price is \$1,243.91, plus a monthly fee of \$40. By purchasing this through the county, they will save \$5 a month.
- APPROVED the public works department’s request to purchase a sewer hose for \$1,450.
- HEARD from Sherry Frisk, Motley Area Food Shelf Director, during the public forum. Frisk expressed thanks to the city for their financial support of the food shelf. She noted that this year they were able to give away 75 complete Thanksgiving meal baskets. They plan to give away Christmas baskets as well.
- LEARNED city hall will be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 24 and 25, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- SET next regular council meeting for Monday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Motley Police, MCSO

Dec. 3 - 9

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

Dec. 8 - The MPD responded to a report of a possible domestic assault at the 200 block of Morrison St. E., Motley. Both parties were calmed down when the officer arrived and both separately stated that they had both been drinking rum and vodka all day and were drunk. Both parties agreed to not fight with each other anymore and neither wanted to press charges.

Dec. 5 - The MPD responded to a report of a vehicle theft at 496 Hwy 10 S., Motley - FCA Sales. Business owner Patrick Beutz stated that two Native American males, possibly in their 50s, came into the store requesting to test drive the listed car. One of the male parties took it out for a test drive and the other stayed back at the lot in their vehicle. The salesman, Craig Dean, went in to speak with the owner and then noticed the party drove away in the personal vehicle, possibly a 2004 Trailblazer with a Wisconsin plate.

Dec. 7 - The MCSO responded to a report of a vehicle being parked behind Lincoln Gas & Bit in Cushing for several minutes. The responding deputy made contact with the vehicle occupants who were waiting for their vehicle to cool off. The male occupant came back with a warrant out of another county, however the deputy was not able to arrest the subject due to restrictions. No bail collected.

Dec. 10 - 16

Dec.16 - The MPD received a report of a driver sleeping behind the wheel while the vehicle was running. The officer responded to the scene at the 200 block of Hwy 10 W., Motley, and after making contact with the driver, Leonard Ebinger was arrested for DWI.

Dec. 16 - The MPD issued a citation to Darrin Tieszen, 30, for driving with a

revoked license.

Dec. 16 - The MPD received a report of a burglary at the Eastwood Apartments in Motley. This is the second burglary at this location in two weeks.

Dec. 15 - The MPD received a report of a counterfeit \$10 bill that had been received by a Motley resident.

Dec. 10 - The MPD received a report that someone was shining deer with vehicle headlights and hunting with a bow inside city limits. The officer made contact with the hunter who came walking out of the woods after dark, with a crossbow. He admitted he had been hunting but didn’t know he couldn’t hunt in city limits. He stated he would put it away and not hunt there anymore.

Dec. 10 - The MPD received a complaint of a suspicious vehicle heading towards Motley from Lincoln. The MPD observed the vehicle driving faster than the posted speed and conducted a traffic stop near the Dairy Queen in Motley. Subsequently, the driver, 27 year old Taylor Hill Barth, was arrested as the vehicle was stolen, had stolen license plates belonging to another vehicle, and heroin was found inside the vehicle. The MPD was notified by Litchfield Police that the vehicle had been used in a burglary in their town. Burglary tools were located in the vehicle and possible stolen items were seized. The female passenger was released and advised she will receive court paperwork in the mail. The vehicle was towed by Always Available and is being held for investigation.

Dec. 10 - The MPD received a call from a Motley residence reporting someone had broken into his truck and stolen a purse, a 240-piece tool set and about \$80 worth of cash. The caller stated that the front doors of the truck were locked but that the back doors don’t lock. No suspects at this time.

Dec. 10 - The MCSO received a report of an illegal burn at the 3000 block of Scandia Dr., Cushing.

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
Associate Pastor Zach Jones
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA.....6:00 p.m.

Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples 218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Small Groups (Bible classes for all ages).....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.
Children’s Church (Kids start in main worship service).....11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sonlight (kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade).....After school to 5:30 p.m.

Church of Christ
27343 490th St., Staples.....218-894-2609
Pastor Barry Klein
Facebook Live
Bible School (youth and adult).....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY:
Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study.....7-8 p.m.

First Congregational Church, UCC
firstcongouccstaples@gmail.com
204 5th St. NE, Staples..... 218-894-2571
Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Fellowship, refreshments following service

Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor: Carl Larson
Associate Pastor: Carleton Smea
Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples Church.....218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. Gabriel Walz
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
Saturday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923
Pastor Scott Jorgenson
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH.....6:30 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.....10:30 a.m.

United Methodist
310 5th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2248
Pastor Greg Leslie
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

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
Pastor Carl Larson
Associate Pastor: Carleton Smea
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.....9:30 a.m.
Pancake Breakfast.....11:45 a.m.
2nd Sunday, each month

Lincoln Evangelical Free
1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218- 575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
Community Life Pastor: Jim Brown
Associate Pastor/Youth Joe Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
Facebook Live.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Praise & Prayer.....6:30 p.m.

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

Leader

Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader.....218-397-2470
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
Sunday Worship
January - July.....9 a.m.
July - January.....11 a.m.

Maple Hill Lutheran
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament
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
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Charles Mallory, Associate Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
facebook live.....9 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Youth Group.....6:00-7:30 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. Gabriel Walz
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 Leslie
www.motleyumc.net
Sunday Worship Service.....9:00 a.m.
Monday AA meeting.....8:00 p.m.

Hewitt

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

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)
524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
Sunday Services.....10:30 a.m.
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.

Verndale

Verndale Alliance
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
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.

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self.....218-371-7189
Childrens’ Pastor Kenneth Kjeldergaard
SUNDAY
Sunday School.....8:30 a.m..
Worship Service.....10:00 a.m..
Prayer Meeting.....5 p.m..
WEDNESDAY
Night Life Groups.....6:30-8 p.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.

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Bartlett Township (LCMS)
17097 460th St. PO Box 37, Verndale
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m..
Sunday School.....10:30 a.m..
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.

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.

Leaf River Township

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

Check with your church to be up-to-date on service options. Many offer remote services.

“Christmas Grace at a Litchfield Farm House”

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

My family of origin often made the trek from Albert Lea to Litchfield around Christmas time as we traveled “over the river and through the woods.”

The farm continued to be home for my widowed paternal grandmother. I can vividly picture each room, the enclosed south side porch and the fuel oiled aroma basement of the two story farm house. In the dining room east window, a straw type wreath with a white electric candle with a red light bulb would fill the atmosphere of the room. The Christmas tree brightened the living room.

I am guessing that on this particular Christmas, I may have been nine or 10 years old. In the midst of fond boyhood Christmas memories over the years, this particular one had a glitch. My parents told me that Santa Claus was coming to the house that evening. Selective memory helps me to escape recalling exactly what my “infraction of misbehavior” was, but it clearly led to a spanking.

Now maybe you can start putting together some pieces as to what was about to unfold. For, we know what “Santa Claus’ infamous opening question is, right?! Well, “Santa Claus” (a.k.a. my, unknown to me, maternal uncle) did arrive and did proceed to ask me that now terrifying ques-

tion in the midst of a still stinging back end. I remember looking at my parents for help in knowing how to answer that question. All in just a matter of seconds, I heard one of them say, “Well, he has been good for the most part this past year!!”

Good thing that “Santa” didn’t take time to read between the lines and proceeded with his bag of gifts.

God does one move far better than even my gracious parents. Our dilemma is far worse than mine was in my paternal grandparents’ farm house. As my parents interceded for me in “averaging things out,” God has interceded for all our sins. Why is our dilemma far greater? The Pharisees of the New Testament thought they could live in an illusionary world of “averages.” But Romans 3:23 reminds us that “we all have sinned and come short of God’s glory.” It is our first sin that got us into eternal trouble.

But God, even before Genesis 1:1, had a plan to pay, in justice, for all of our sins. Romans 3:34 explains the plan of being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.” That is true “Christmas Grace.” I hope you will be receiving it!

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
Hwy. 10 West, Staples, MN
218-894-3794

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

The Church Directory is supported by the advertisers listed above and the Ministerial Association.

To update your church information or to advertise on the Church Directory, call 218-894-1112 for Jan or email: jwinter@staplesworld.com. As usual continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message to: jwinter@staplesworld.com

Looking back

75 YEARS Ago - 1945

• Dec. 27, 1945 - One of the finest Christmas programs in our remembrance was presented in the high school auditorium Thursday evening of the past week, when the heads of the music departments of the school combined the musical organizations to present a community Christmas festival. The program included numbers by the school band, the junior and senior girls glee clubs, the boys chorus, the junior and senior girls octette, the string ensemble and soloist Elaine Reichel-derfer.

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- O -

The Nativity play was presented by Junior and Senior high school students; and the play, "Too Much Mistletoe" was presented by members of the Paint and Patches Dramatic Club.

A feature of the program that drew the particular attention of the grownups was the singing of the grades one to three of the Lincoln and northside schools. These numbers were under the direction of Miss Bottemiller of the Lincoln school. Truly, the spirit of Christmas was brot to the audience enthusiastically by this group who were imbued with the anticipation of the nearness of Christmas and the joys that attend it. An audience of 800 to 900 attended the Christmas program.

• Dec. 27, 1945 - Staples Cardinal basketball team will continue to hold regular practices during the Christmas vacation, announced Superintendent P. M. Atwood.

Assistant Coach John Rengel has started the team out on the holiday season practices the first one being held on Wednesday of this week. The first game after the holidays will be on Jan. 4, when the Cards meet the Rangers at Crosby.

• Dec. 27, 1945 - The only Christmas day baby born at the Staples Municipal this year was a baby girl born to Mr. and Mrs. John Frikken of Staples. The baby weighed nine pounds and 4 1/2 ounces and has been named Mae Viola.

50 YEARS Ago - 1970

• Dec. 31, 1970 - Frank Quilici, infielder for the Minnesota Twins baseball team, paid a holiday visit to the Mary Rondorf Home Tuesday noon. During his visit, he spoke with two long-time baseball fans, Mat Scully, who is 95, and Milton Chapin, 69.

• Dec. 31, 1970 - Mike Roberts, Staples' 120-pound wrestler for Coach Don Dravis' squad at Staples high school was named as the Prep Athlete of the week in the Thursday, Dec. 24, edition of the St. Paul Pioneer Press, with the article written by Chuck Dixon, staff writer.

• Dec. 31, 1970 - Churches of Staples will mark the New Year with special services in their congregations, the various pastors announced this week.

The youth of the area are invited to a special Watch Night Service at the Christian and Missionary Alliance church New Year's Eve, Dec. 31. The Rev. Donald Brown, pastor, said that the service will begin at 8 p.m. and will include a sing-spuration and the showing of the full color film, "The Bobby Richardson Story.

The New Year's Eve service at the Assembly of God Church will include a lunch

and fellowship hour at 8:30 p.m., a service at 10 p.m. and the showing of the movie, "The Big Blast," at 10:45 p.m., said the Rev. Verlyn Nelson.

Faith Lutheran church will hold a New Year's Eve service with Holy Communion at 11:15 p.m. The Rev. Eugene Floistad said that the Luther League party scheduled that evening has been postponed in order for the Luther Leaguers to attend the party at the Christian and Missionary Alliance church.

The Rev. Vincent Huebsch announced that at the Church of the Sacred Heart, a Mass will be held at 8 o'clock tonight, Thursday, and Masses on New Year's Day are slated for 8 a.m. 10 a.m.

Trinity Lutheran church will observe New Year's Eve with special services at 8 p.m., the Rev. R. L. Bode said. The Sacrament of the Altar will be administered.

25 YEARS Ago - 1995

• Dec. 28, 1995 - Contrary to rumors, the Staples Motley High School is not a hotbed of the drug scene.

In what was termed a "preventative search," school officials and area law enforcement officers conducted a search of lockers and cars around the school last Tuesday, and came up with a grand total of one suspicious item.

A small amount of what authorities believe was marijuana was found in a car near the school, according to Staples Police Chief Kyle Huber.

Bruce Pederson, principal, and Marcia Hetherington, assistant principal, requested the search and the aid of Staples Police and the Todd County Sheriff's Department. Deputies Don Burns and Terry Bandemer, along with their canine partners, Baron and Major, conducted the search, which was started about mid morning on Dec. 19.

• Dec. 28, 1995 - Wally Thompson was honored Dec. 20, at an open house marking his retirement from Burlington Northern Railroad. He had been the trainmaster at Staples since he moved here in 1972. Terminal Superintendent Greg Ploger presented Thompson



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from our Dec. 24, 1970 edition. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Email your answers and where you are from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday morning, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week's paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

with a momento of the occasion.

• Dec. 28, 1995 - The Cardinal girls gymnastics squad, short in numbers and experience, never-the-less managed to win their first-ever gymnastics competition Dec. 22, with a 109.45 to 105.30 win over the Frazee girls gymnastics team.

Sophomore Heidi Fleck led the Staples Motley girls, compiling 34.10 points toward the team victory with first places in all four events.

Amy Peterson, a Staples Motley 7th grader, was the second high individual for the meet, with 27.55 points. Both girls gave very consistent performances, Coach Charlie Fleck said.

• Dec. 28, 1995 - Motley Police are investigating the report of a theft of approximately 30 raccoon and

21 red fox pelts. The furs were stored in a freezer in Troy Dunn's garage, who reported the theft on Dec. 12. The raccoon furs were valued at about \$13 each and the fox furs at about \$21 each.

10 YEARS Ago - 2010

• Dec. 30, 2010 - A new 'Home of the Cardinals' ticket booth has been donated to the Staples Motley School district in memory of sports fan Derald Miller. It was donated by the Holst and Sterriker families, descendants of the Millers.

• Dec. 30, 2010 - Thirty-five-year-old Daren Rathcke, of Nimrod, died Dec. 23, after being struck by a tree he was cutting down in the Pillsbury Forest near Pil-lager.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo, published in the Dec. 17, 1970 edition of the Staples World, featured the starting six members of the Staples High School basketball team and their coach. Starting at the bottom left of the picture and going around the hoop clockwise are Joe Neznik, George Smith, Mark Behn, Tim Rach, Bruce Lund, Jack Kirk, and Coach Tom Wolhowe.

Bruce Lund of Staples, a 1972

graduate of SHS and one of the boys in the photo, recognized all. Lund mentioned that he was a junior in this photo. Gary "Husker" Mayavski of Sauk Center and Mike Koppes of Staples, both 1971 SHS grads, correctly identified all. Judy Wolak of Staples correctly identified Coach Wolhowe, and team members Neznik, Smith, Rach and Kirk. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

DONAT continued from page 1b

Beyond school and economic development, Donat also worked on community improvements

message.

Jim Hofer's first day in Staples included one of those tours from Donat, while interviewing for an agriculture/FFA teaching position.

"On that day as we drove around town, he shared with me 3M, the airport, the new industrial park (vacant at that time), and newly purchased land for a research irrigation farm," said Hofer. "He was visionary, with goals in mind to increase the workforce, education, and other vital services to the community."

Housing was one of the services Donat turned his attention to. He helped bring in the Staples Hi Rise apartments and started other housing developments.

Bruce and Bev Nelsen were two of the beneficiaries of that housing focus. They wrote saying when they first came to Staples they had to bring their own trailer to live in. When they returned three years later, "Dick and his buddies had already created a place to live, the Park Estates development," they wrote. "His vision of Economic Development was both long range and comprehensive."

In 2009, the Staples-Motley Community Foundation awarded Donat with the Duane R Lund Lifetime Achievement Award, named after his mentor who combined economic development with the work of the school district. At the award ceremony, it was noted that Doug Anderson listed 68 separate businesses that Dick had worked to attract to Staples. "I'm not sure there is any one accomplishment that stands out," said Jerel Nelsen. "3M, McCourtney Plastics, Stern Rubber,

Benson Optical, Staples High Rise ... Dick and the Development Corporation were very active and successful"

Donat's influence went beyond economic development into community development. As a teacher and administrator, he was on the Lakewood Foundation Board, started a feeder pig market behind Bjerga's Feed Store, was President of the Staples Chamber of Commerce, wrote a newspaper column and hosted a radio program.

The Carlsons said "He knew that to retain people in the community, there would need to be entertainment and recreation and that all of those elements would fit together. His overall plan was to reinforce the picture that Staples was a vibrant, industrious community. One that would be a wonderful place in which to live, work, and raise a family"

For those who knew him, his development accomplishments came second to the friendships that were forged.

Hofer said Donat's wife Kerwin was a classmate of his sister in high school in Wheaton.

"Dick was an inquisitive person, calling me several times for updates on events happening in the community. I will miss the many visits we have had about community issues, county issues, school issues, and updates from Wheaton," said Hofer. "I will miss him as a mentor and friend."

"I always enjoyed working with him," said Jenkins, "A very dear friend and we all will miss him."

"Dick Donat was a good friend, and we will miss him for many reasons," said the Nelsens.

Staples Police report

On Dec. 7, Staples Police received a report of a possible assault that was reported to have occurred

On Dec. 8, Staples Police received a report of a theft from a Toys for Tots bin. Police located the suspect and they returned the items.

On Dec. 8, at 6:44 p.m., Staples Police assisted the Wadena County Sheriff's Office with a call of a green laser that was being pointed at an aircraft. Police were unable to locate the source of the laser.

On Dec. 9, Staples Police assisted Wadena County Probation by arresting a subject who violated his conditions of release. The subject was transported to Wadena County Jail.

On Dec. 9, Staples Police received a report of loud dirtbikes riding around town. Police were unable to locate the dirtbikes or the individuals who were riding them.

On Dec. 9, Staples Police responded to the 400 block

of Dakota Ave. SE for the report of terroristic threats. Police are investigating.

On Dec. 10, Staples Police assisted Motley PD with a traffic stop on a stolen vehicle.

On Dec. 10, Staples Police received a complaint regarding a tenant disturbing the peace at an apartment on the 800 block of 4th Street NE. The complaint stated a tenant in the building was irritating a dog in the apartment above hers and making it bark which was disturbing the remainder of the building. Police spoke with the subject and they were advised.

On Dec. 13, Staples Police received a report of suspicious activity on the 1500 block of 8th Street NE. A resident reported someone rang their doorbell several times between 3-3:30, but they reported the incident several hours later. The caller was advised to call when the incident is going on so an officer can respond.

OPTIONS continued from page 1b

School tax levy increases

efficient, practical and realistic."

The ICS report said that the school is still talking with Lakewood Health System about expanding the high school athletic facility to include fitness and health equipment. This would not increase the cost of the project.

Truth in taxation

The school board reviewed a 1.45 percent

levy increase for next year, which translates to a \$36,319 increase.

Business manager Chuck Herdegren said even with the slight increases, school taxes may go down for individuals because the district's tax capacity is up by 12 percent. If an individual land valuation did not go up by 12 percent, then the school portion of taxes will likely be lower.

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Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney

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Letters to the Editor

Covering our great community

I like the Staples World paper and staff. The photographs on the front page are often “works of art” that would be hard to beat by any newspaper.

I’m especially reminded of the evening shot of the local township staying open for voters. It was always a “chatty” fun time to see friends and catch up about how things were going for them. More often than not, we voted for different people and projects. It didn’t make any difference, we still enjoyed each others’ company. I hope and pray that those days will return.

I like the information the

newspaper contains about the community, the school and the historical stories about early Staples. It’s good to read about the terrific programs at the school.

I like to read about the new doctors, new innovations and all the great accomplishments Tim Rice and his staff continue to bring to Lakewood and eventually to us.

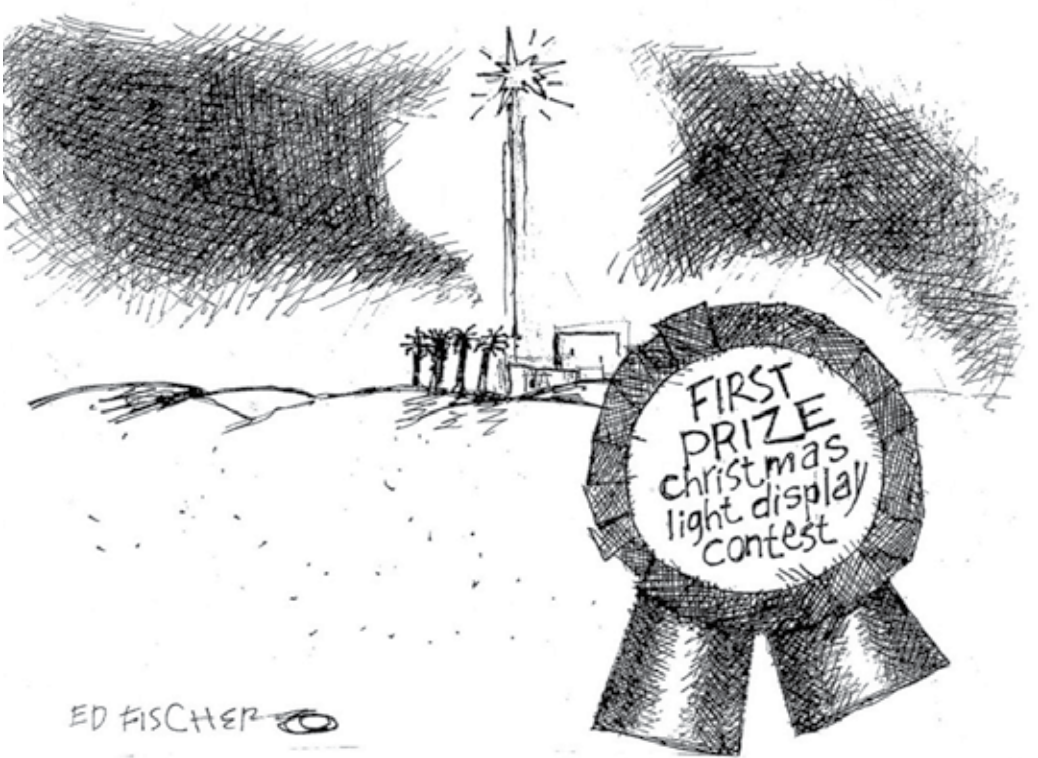
We have a great mayor, a fine staff and a city hall that any community would be proud to have, with a great up to date library and historical society, a veterans park to honor the great men who served our country so faithfully, an overpass that connects north and south Staples and Central Lakes College. We have dedicated city employees that take care of our electricity,

roads, parks, and a fine police department and all the other items that we can be proud of.

One last thing, our superintendent of schools and management staff, the school board and other groups are working hard to present us with a new school that will greatly improve the learning environment for the students in our area. Yes, it will raise our taxes but they were raised to build the schools we attended. Our community needs a new school, let’s support it.

Staples is a great place to live and raise a family. God bless our community.

Pat Miller, and Donna too
Staples, Minn



Local media is winning the COVID battle for eyeballs and credibility

By Shane Tappe
Staples-Motley Schools
Superintendent

As we continue to navigate this unprecedented school year, I feel a deep sense of gratitude for the resolve and commitment of Staples-Motley School students, teachers, staff and families.

Throughout the fall we have adapted learning models in the Middle/High School in response to the COVID-19 activity in our area. This was no easy feat, but we were prepared for these scenarios. I want to thank our students, teachers, staff and their families for their patience during these transitions and for working hard to ensure that the first half of the school year was a success.

As we head toward the winter break, we will continue to monitor the latest data and guidance from state and local health officials. We will provide updates if anything changes. In the meantime, I would like to share a few updates with you about our latest projects and planning.

First, we anticipate that our project to enhance the high school’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) wing should be completed before the end of winter

break. Improvements include the addition of 10 wire-feed welding booths, 10 gas-feed welding stations, as well as new ventilation and dust collection systems. Our CTE programs are a source of pride for our district and this investment will continue to serve our students for many years into the future.

We are deeply committed to preparing our students for life after graduation, and a robust CTE curriculum allows students to personalize their education based on career interests and learning needs. We will continue to seek new ways to invest in our CTE programming as part of the district’s Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP).

The CIP guides our pursuit of excellence and commitment to ensure every Cardinal student finds success. A critical component of this effort is developing a long-term plan to address our facilities needs.

The district’s school buildings are aging and were designed at a time when classroom education and technology were far different than they are today. Equipment, access and security points, and classrooms need significant investment to meet modern education and building standards.

If we are going to achieve our goals through the CIP, our facilities will need to support a dynamic learning environment that includes athletics, fine arts and CTE programs. Working with many members of our communities, the school board has been working to shape a plan that will move the district forward.

The school district’s Facilities Committee has considered many options for long-term facilities investment and narrowed the options for board review. Either of the options presented will produce many positive results. We will have better air quality with new HVAC systems and better security for students and staff. Classroom spaces will allow more collaborative learning, support more CTE efforts and allow for other technology improvements. On Dec. 21, the school board considered moving forward with one of these options.

You can learn more about the school district’s facilities planning process at our new website, SMTIMEtoRise.org. If you have questions or suggestions, you can contact me at shane.tappe@isd2170.k12.mn.us or 218-894-5400. Please stay safe and have a wonderful holiday.

From Editor & Publisher Magazine

A recent study conducted by The Whitman Insight Strategies Initiative and Creative Circle Media Solutions takes a deep dive into how a global pandemic has affected the actual feelings and emotions of local media consumers.

One of the key takeaways revealed from “The Covid-19 Societal Impact Study” is that even though half of those polled say that they lack confidence in news media, those perceptions do not extend to local community media, where those same viewers and readers state they have a much higher trust. Moreover, when asked where they go for essential information about COVID-19, local news scored much higher than cable news and social media channels.

“People are starved for content and connections. That’s why community media have so much to gain. You are already part of the community and people feel like they know you or they should know you,” said Bernard Whitman, president and founder of Whitman Insight Strategies, a strategic consulting firm that conducts polls and market research to advise corporations, political leaders, and issue-advocacy organizations. Whitman is also a three-time recipient of the David Ogilvy Excellence in Research Award.

When asked about the findings, Bill Ostendorf, president and founder of Creative

Circle Media Solutions, said, “We have new eyeballs and more eyeballs. We have an opportunity to provide new kinds of content. Better content. If we create more engaging content now, we can change the way they view newspapers and how they value us.”

More findings from the study show how scared and frightened our readers are and how much they crave credible, local information that connects them with their community and offers hope and comfort.

“We’ve long encouraged our clients to cover life, not news,” said Ostendorf. “To be more relevant, we’ve got to reconnect with readers and write about their lives and what they are doing.”

Another finding from the study revealed that 72 percent of readers felt that the advertising messages they have been seeing during the pandemic “all look the same,” with close to 80 percent of the respondents wanting more information about what an advertiser stands for during these critical times, not just what products or services they sell.

“You can’t push product. Focus on company values,” said Whitman about these findings. “Don’t just say what your values are, talk about how you express your values.” Whitman went on to say that due to this high confidence in local media news sources, the study showed, “We’re telling all our clients to go local. And local media are the perfect partner.”

Mayors from America’s heartland urge COVID-19 relief funding

By The Mississippi River
Cities and Towns Initiative

150 mayors from across America’s heartland are asking House and Senate leaders to pass a new COVID-19 package that includes urgently needed financial relief for cities and towns that have borne the brunt of the impact from the pandemic. With infections, hospitalizations, and deaths at unprecedented

levels, and economic recovery stalling, citizens are looking for immediate action from Washington.

“We need to avoid further delays and approve a new relief package before adjourning the current Congress,” said Mayor Mike Vandersteen, Chair of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. “Regardless of how it is structured, it is imperative that Congress approve revenue replacement for local governments to ensure the swiftest possible recovery from the pandemic.”

“Our two associations represent small towns and large cities across the political spectrum stretching from the East Coast across the industrial Midwest down to the mouth of the Mississippi River at the Gulf of Mexico,” said Kyle Moore, Mayor of Quincy, Ill. and member of the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative. “The pandemic is reaching critical levels now as contagion sweeps through our states unabated. It is imperative we have resources available through the stimulus package to effectively maintain city services and deploy the pending vaccines.”

The Great Lakes and Mississippi River states are among the hardest hit. These cities reflect the national impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, where on average cities have seen revenues decline by more than 20 percent while expenditures have increased by 17 percent. At the same

time, nearly two-thirds of cities surveyed did not receive CARES Act funding. More than 70 percent of cities expect their condition to worsen if Congress does not pass a new COVID relief package.

Cities are experiencing unprecedented financial instability and an escalating pandemic that is straining their ability to maintain basic public services, safeguard public health, and prepare for the upcoming distribution of the COVID vaccine.

As a result, an immediate and unified federal response is needed to support state and local efforts to contain the virus and mitigate the economic consequences of this unprecedented crisis.

Without federal financial assistance, our nation’s economic recovery will stall and cities and towns—both urban and rural—will be further challenged in rebuilding healthy local economies. Federal aid will also enable our cities to sustain joint response efforts from the public and private sector, and support partnerships between local governments, businesses and their communities to mitigate the economic, health and public safety impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI) is a coalition of 100 mayors from across the Mississippi River Corridor which spans along ten states from Minnesota to Louisiana.

Quote of the week

“Oh, Christmas isn’t just a day, it’s a frame of mind and that’s what’s been changing. That’s why I’m glad I’m here, maybe I can do something about it!”
— Kris Kringle from “Miracle on 34th Street” (1947)

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The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

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Blood drive in Motley January 7

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive on Thursday, Jan. 7, from 12 - 6 p.m., at the Motley United Methodist Church. The church is located at 847 3rd Ave. S.

More information can be found online at www.redcrossblood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Motley Community, or call 1-800-733-2767.



Pillager Lions give gifts

The Pillager and Area Lions recently presented Christmas gifts to 60-plus children at Pillager Elementary and Pillager Middle School. Pictured above, from left, are Pillager and Area Lions members Cathy Johnson (standing), Debra Carner, Heidi Erickson, Nancy Hanssen and Sarah Griffith. At right are Pillager Elementary School Social Worker Ashley Ingram and Pillager Middle School Counselor Stacy Germundon. In lower photo, with the gifts, are Germundon (left) and Ingram. (Submitted photos)



A Christmas tree north of Aldrich with the moon shining on a clear night.



The deer and deer stand in Aldrich.



Christmas lights around Staples

Area residents are lighting up the town and rural area with cheery Christmas lights. Above: Staples Fire Department. (Staples World photos by Janice Winter)



The nativity scene at the Max and Kathy Sibbert farm south of Staples.



The Staples Depot with the Christmas tree.



Festive skating rink in Motley

Lights depicting skaters adorn the warming house outside of the skating rink in Motley. The rink is located at the Motley Rec Area just off Hwy 10 behind the Holiday Station on Main Street. There are a limited number of skates available for public use in the warming house. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to JoAnn Nelson and Terry Bryant of Little Falls, a baby boy, Jathaniel Max weighing six pounds, on December 11, 2020.

Born to Megan and Taylor Agnew of Wadena, a baby boy, Sullivan Ellis weighing seven pounds two ounces on December 11, 2020.

Born to Danielle and Travis MacDonald of Brainerd, a baby girl, Elsie Marie weighing eight pounds, 12 ounces on December 12, 2020.

Born to Rebekah and Ross Bollin of Clarissa, a baby boy, Kase Ray weighing eight pounds, two ounces on December 14, 2020.

Born to Ashley and Randy Mumm of Wadena, a baby girl, Ella Alice weighing six pounds on December 16, 2020.

Student Achievements

ZACHARY SCHMITZ, Cushing, recently graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead with a Masters degree in Healthcare Administration.

JESSICA KLIMA, Pillager, recently graduated cum laude from Minnesota State University, Mankato, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education.

KIM SCOTT, Pillager, recently graduated cum laude from Minnesota State University, Mankato, with a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree.



The Christmas Story



ANGEL	MANGER	GOLD
BETHLEHEM	MARY	HOLY SPIRIT
CAMELS	MYRRH	EMMANUEL
CATTLE	SHEEP	INCENSE
DONKEY	SHEPHERDS	JESUS
EAST	STAR	JOSEPH
GIFTS	WISE MEN	MAGI

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Richard Donat

Richard “Dick” Donat, 85, of Staples passed away peacefully amidst the oak trees at the Quiet Oaks Hospice House, St. Augusta, December 15, 2020, after spending the day holding the hands of his wife and daughters.

A funeral service and celebration of life will be scheduled at a later time.

Dick was born into a farming family on August 4, 1935 in his beloved Upsala to Frank and Anna Donat. He attended St. Cloud State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Minnesota, feeling great pride in serving as both vice president and president of his classes in college. He was forever grateful for the opportunity to pursue his education, but never forgot the lessons he learned on the farm alongside his family. He was always a farmer at heart, teaching Agriculture and serving as FFA advisor first in Motley and then in Staples. He later served as a Title I/Federal Programs Director and then the Assistant Superintendent for Staples Schools.

Dick recalled lessons learned in Boy Scouts until the very end. Time spent with good friends, a troop canoeing trip, horseback riding at Philmont Scout Ranch and attending the Boy Scout National Jamboree all made lasting impressions upon him. He would often share with his grandchildren the lessons he learned as a football, basketball and baseball player for the Upsala Cardinals. Richard was fond of reminiscing of his days on the farm, helping his mom and dad after the rest of his siblings were grown and married.

On July 19, 1969 Dick married the love of his life, Kerwin Jacobson after being set up on a blind date at his cabin. A smile always spread across his face as he remembered how Kerwin, who not believing she would have the opportunity to go back to the cabin, water skied around the lake 26 times. Little did she know they would end up sharing that same cabin for 51 years. Dick’s daughters, Kari and Kim were his world. Dick taught them to value family, their faith and community and to be lifelong learners.

His professional sources of pride were being named to the Minnesota Teacher of the Year Honor Roll, leading the FFA Goodwill Tour to Europe, assisting in the senior high rise apartments, seeing the Community Center in Staples become a reality, attracting industry to the area and working on the Centennial Auditorium. Former Superintendent, Jack Nelson once said, “Dick Donat was synonymous with economic development in Staples. If someone asked about starting a business, they were told to talk to Dick.” He was a humble man, always using we, not I, but greatly appreciated receiving the Staples Lifetime Achievement Award. It was less about



the award and more about what people with a passion to work together towards a common goal, can accomplish.

He was an active and dedicated community and church member having served in just about every capacity at Faith Lutheran Church, Rotary, Jaycees, Civic and Commerce Association, Rural Minnesota CEP, the Initiative Foundation, Region Five Economic Development Board, MN Business and Finance, MN Business and Technology, the Workforce Center, the Staples Development Corporation, the Unity Bank Board, recruiting doctors to the area, FFA, Arts Council, Todd County Fair Board and Boy Scouts. He had cherished memories of Rotary Art Shows, lutefisk church dinners, Farmers Night on the Town events, the Central Lakes Irrigation Farm and running for the House of Representatives.

Everyone who knew him understood what it was like to be questioned by Dick Donat. He was forever curious about people and their pursuits. He valued a good question and always intently listened to the answer. One of Richard’s professors once advised him, “I know of no one who has learned more from what you do than you do. Keep that up. It is a good trait to have.” That advise always served him well.

He was most passionate about his family and never missed the opportunity to twirl Kerwin around the dance floor, read to his girls or attend his grandchildren’s many events. He forever treasured month long June family road trips, winters at South Padre Island and summers at the cabin. Sitting on the dock, listening to the call of the loons brought him peace.

Richard is survived by his wife, Kerwin (Jacobson) of Staples and two daughters, Kari (Donat) Kreft and husband John and Kim Donat and husband Joshua Lipschultz and his treasured five grandchildren, Hailey, Brianna and Isaac Kreft and Hanna and Elizabeth (Libby) Lipschultz. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, brothers and sisters-in-laws and extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Anna Donat; one brother, Leslie and wife, Lois; two sisters, Rosella and husband Marvin and Viola (Dolly) and husband Clifford.

Arrangements by Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud.

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Bonnie Line

Bonnie M. Line, 56, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on December 15, 2020 at home in Staples.

Funeral services were held Dec. 19 at Verndale Family Life Church in Verndale.

Bonnie was born November 3, 1964 to Jim and Barb (Ziegler) DeWald in Staples. On July 12, 1991 she married the love of her life Rich Line in Sisseton, SD. They raised their daughters in Staples, where the couple owned and operated Line Electric with Bonnie keeping books and payroll. In 1997, the couple partnering with Lonnie and Rena DeWald purchased the Ace Bar, and after remodeling both floors opened Dew-Lin’s Sports Lounge. Bonnie’s sense of humor and infectious laugh made her the life of the party and her compassion, generosity and ability to accept people as they are made her a lifetime friend to many who walked through Dew-Lin’s doors until it was sold in 2004. Her warrior spirit and strength inspired many as she overcame multiple illnesses and surgeries through the years. Bonnie enjoyed traveling, trips to the casino, pull tabs and riding motorcycle, especially for Gracie’s Run. Bonnie’s heart belonged to her family and her idea of the perfect day was laughing with her daughters, hugging her grandkids and sharing a meal with her husband and sons-in-law after the boys had prepared a feast. Bonnie was a great friend,



a loving wife, a best friend to her girls and a doting grandma to her grandkids; she will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Bonnie is survived by her husband, Rich, Staples; three daughters, Sarah (Tony) Eisenmenger, Crosby, Amanda (Marcus) Vernon, Sartell, Rebecca (Tyler) Jackson, St. Stephen; mother, Barb DeWald, Browerville; three brothers, Leroy (Pam) DeWald, Larry DeWald, Lonnie (Rena) DeWald; eight grandchildren, Jackie, Olivia, Kyle, Ashton, Isabel, Levi, Leandra, Eli and many nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Jim; one granddaughter, Grace Becker and one nephew, Michael DeWald.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations are preferred to the Grace Becker Foundation, which was near and dear to Bonnie’s heart.

Arrangements were by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w52c A00006B2020DC23

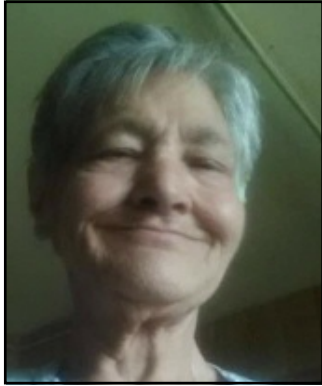
Diane Thomas

Diane M. Thomas, 61, of Ironwood, MI, formerly of Staples and Salt Lake City, UT, passed away December 12, 2020, at Aspirus Wausau Hospital.

No services will be held at this time, however a celebration of life service will be held in the near future.

Diane was born February 1, 1959 to James and Doris (Hutchins) Quinlan in Boulder, Colorado.

Survivors include two sons; Danny (Christine) Smith, one grandson, Austin Smith and one great-granddaughter Sophia Heart, all of Lancaster, PA and Jeffrey Michael Emery of Ironwood, MI and Salt Lake City, UT and three grandchildren Kira, Madison and Devan; two brothers, Michael Quinlan of Boise, ID and Gary Quinlan of Staples; her dog, Oliver, her constant companion whom she res-



cued from an animal shelter. Diane was especially fond of rescue animals and has had several over the years along with volunteering at various animal shelters.

Preceding Diane in death were her parents; along with her first rescue cat, Ragan.

Diane will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

w52P A00006B2020DC23

David Pohl

David “Little Buck” M. Pohl, 59, of Mora and formerly of Staples, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family at his home in Mora on December 15, 2020.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Sat., Jan. 2, 2021 at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Staples. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday at the funeral home in Staples. A ZOOM opportunity will be available for the service upon request.

Dave was born on January 3, 1961 in Bertha to Theodore “Ted” and Mary (Simkins) Pohl. He attended Pine Tech where he obtained his licensure in Taxidermy and continued his education at Central Lakes Community College, Staples for machinist training. Dave married Anna Comeau on February 29, 1980; the couple later divorced. He met and married his life companion, Jill Isvik, on March 22, 1992 in Minneapolis. Dave started his machining career in Minneapolis and most recently worked for Lares Corporation in Cambridge for over 20 years. He was a collector of many things: antique cars, motorcycles, guns and animals. In his retirement years Dave had a goal of learning how to play the guitar and keyboard, so he could jam to his classic rock songs. Dave



enjoyed the great outdoors, hunting, fishing and trapping in his younger years. He was determined and an avid sportsman. Above all else he loved his family beyond words. Dave will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Jill, of Mora; three daughters, Melissa (Keith) Sire, Moorhead, Jamie Pohl, Detroit Lakes and Angela (Justin) Cowden, Milaca; six grandchildren, Keith Sire, Mackenzie Hilden, Timothy Sire, Isaiah Pohl, Aiden Pohl and Autumn Hilden; two brothers, Leland “Butch” Webster and Daniel “Bonze” Pohl; three sisters, Karen (Garry) Carpenter, Rebecca (Joe) Kestner and Cynthia “Penny” (Merl) Engleking and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

w52-1c A00006B2020DC23

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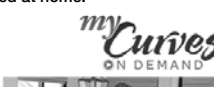
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Six benefits for you and your community from supporting local entrepreneurs

From entrepreneur.com

In recent years, a movement has begun. It's a movement that takes consumers away from large, impersonal big-box retailers and introduces them to the people doing business in their very own cities. These are local farmers, craftsmen, antiques dealers, and other product providers, with items made locally and sold on a small scale.

When a consumer supports his local business owners, he enjoys benefits he can't possibly get from shopping at national chains. Here are some top reasons to support your local entrepreneurs.

• Improve the local economy.

When a consumer buys local, significantly more of that money stays in the community. In fact, one Chicago study found that for every \$100 spent at a local business, \$68 remained in the city while only \$43 of each \$100 spent at a chain retailer.

Local business owners often have incentive to support other local businesses, patronizing local establishments for both business and personal reasons. Chain

businesses, on the other hand, tend to get their supplies from corporate, as well as having store managers and employees that aren't as personally invested in buying local.

• Know the people behind the product.

When you personally know the people behind the business where you're buying local products and services, you enjoy a connection you would not otherwise have. Along with the rest of the community, you celebrate when a favorite local business succeeds and you mourn when it's forced to shut its doors. This personal investment isn't quite as present when a chain business closes, aside from feeling disappointment that you have fewer businesses within convenient driving distance.

• Keep your community unique.

Local businesses give a community its flavor. Towns across America have similar chain restaurants, grocery and department stores but that diner down the street where you have breakfast every Saturday morning is one-of-a-kind. The combined presence

of your town's many local businesses makes it different from every other city in the world. By supporting those businesses instead of chains, you ensure that uniqueness is preserved as a part of your community.

• Improve your family's health.

Buying local foods has numerous health benefits to your family. When you buy from local farmers, you have access to fruits and vegetables that you know are chemical free, as well as grass-fed meats, fresh eggs, and dairy from cows that feast on local green grass each day. There are also benefits to eating raw local honeys, which are thought to help battle allergies.

• Better customer service.

If you've ever dealt with a large corporation, you know getting help can be a nightmare. You'll call a 1-800 number, only to be transferred seven times and put on hold. Even when you speak to a customer service representative, that person is so far removed from the decision-making process, there's little concern that the company will lose you as a customer.

When you shop local, the business owner is usually directly connected to every employee in the store. That leads to a personal approach that often means any problem you have is taken seriously.

• More personalized service.

Having the owner nearby also means that owner personally knows his customers. He knows the products you buy or the services you request on a regular basis and can tailor services to make your experience even better. A local gardening shop owner may learn about a new product on the market that can help you with a pest control problem you mentioned on one of your visits, for instance, and can order that product as part of his selections.

Buying local has benefits beyond mere convenience. When you support local business owners, you get a better level of service, as well as helping make your community a better place to live. This is in addition to the health benefits and access to unique products that you usually can't find with chain locations.

Merry Christmas

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- * Abdallah Candies
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Local businesses offer best options for last minute gifts

As Christmas approaches and shoppers are looking for stocking stuffers and last-minute gifts, local stores offer some of the the fastest, best options for buying gifts and gift certificates.

Local business owners have an advantage over big box retailers, because their customer service is personal and so can be extremely effective. Store personnel can point you to the section you are looking for and even help you think of gift ideas. Within a few minutes of entering the store, you can leave with what you were looking for or with something you hadn't thought of before.

Many local shops have

unique gift alternatives not found online and many places sell independent brands that are only found at a few stores. Buying unique gifts creates a sense of community when you remember that the gift was purchased in your own town.

Local gift cards are a more personal way to let someone explore your local businesses and give back to your community at the same time.

Small business shopping doesn't just mean small gifts. Local stores have big-ticket items, also, and our local shopping district has enough inventory and variety to provide gifts for everyone.



Christmas scenes in Staples could be out of a Christmas movie

In what could be a scene from a Hallmark Christmas movie, Hunter Vogt and Maxx Carlson play football in front of a decorated home in Staples. While Christmas movies are becoming more popular for their idealization of small town life, some local people are out living in Christmasville every day. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

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NOTICES

107

Notices

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cl52-3c

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cl39-6c

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*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified
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SW 2020 changed wk #50



**STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF TODD
SEVENTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
Court File No.
77-PR-20-1021**

In Re: Estate of
Darwin K. Anderson
Decedent.

**NOTICE OF AND
ORDER FOR HEARING
ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
OF INTESTACY,
DETERMINATION
OF HEIRS, FORMAL
APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
AND NOTICE TO
CREDITORS**

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 25, 2021 at 10:15 a.m. a hearing will be held in this Court at **221 First Avenue S, Long Prairie, MN 56347**, on a petition for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of decedent's heirs, and for the appointment of **Christopher K. Breitenfeldt**, whose address is **5426 Belmont Road, Grand Forks, ND 58201**, as personal representative of the decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets; to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; to sell real and personal property; and to do all necessary acts for the decedent's estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT

Dated: December 9, 2020

Daniel Benson
Judge of District Court
Rhonda Bot
Court Administrator
Patti Johnson, Deputy
Court Administrator

Jeffrey D. Pederson
Attorney for Petitioner
PEDERSON & PEDERSON, P.A.
24 SW Colfax Avenue
P.O. Box 623
Wadena, MN 56482
Atty. Lic. #144356
Tel: 218-631-1228
Fax: 218-631-1342

52-1pnc

**NOTICE OF
MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE SALE**

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 12, 2017
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$122,550.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jacob Meyer, a single man

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on April 13, 2017 as Document Number 503546 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper by assignment recorded on December 17, 2019 as Document Number A517474 in the Office of the County Recorder of

Todd County, Minnesota.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The North Half of the South Half of the Northwest Quarter (N1/2 S1/2 NW1/4) of Section Twenty-three (23), Township One Hundred Thirty-one (131) North, Range Thirty-four (34) West of the Fifth P.M., according to the United States Government Survey thereof, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 35614 205TH AVE, CLARISSA, MN 56440

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Todd County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$132,639.27

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: United Wholesale Mortgage

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a Mr. Cooper

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 07-0027201

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100032412170200270

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

PLACE OF SALE: Todd County Sheriff's Office, County Detention Center, 115 Third Street South, Long Prairie, MN 56347.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is twelve (12) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on January 28, 2022.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERLY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

Dated: November 25, 2020

NATIONSTAR
MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A
MR. COOPER
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
N. Kibongni
Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Michael van Muelken, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(19-1521-FC02)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

50-6pnc

**NOTICE
LAKE SHORE
AERATION WARNING**

As of 12/15/2020 there will be an aerator operating along Moore's point on Lake Alexander for the remainder of the winter.

52-1pnc

**NOTICE OF FILING
FAWN LAKE
TOWNSHIP**

The following positions will be open for filing for the upcoming township election:

- One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term
- One (1) Treasurer for a two (2) year term

Please call the Clerk at 218-531-0297 for an appointment to file for office. Filing opens on December 29, 2020 and will close on January 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Kelly Miller, Clerk

52-1pnc

**NOTICE
MAY TOWNSHIP
REORGANIZATIONAL
MEETING**

May Township will hold their reorganizational meeting Mon., January 4, 2021 at the town hall at 7:00 p.m.

Regular meeting will be held Mon., Jan. 11, 7:00 p.m.

52-1pnc

**NOTICE
MORAN TOWNSHIP
FILING**

Notice is hereby given to the residents of Moran Township that filing for Township Offices will be open on December 31, 2020 and close on January 14, 2021 at 5 p.m.

The offices to be filed for are: One (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term; One (1) Treasurer for a two (2) year term and One (1) Clerk for a one (1) year term. Candidates may file at the clerks office at 28316 410th St., Browerville, Mn. Because of COVID, please call the clerk at 218-831-0929 to make arrangements before filing.

Teresa Wagner, Clerk.

51-52pnc

**NOTICE OF FILING
STAPLES TOWNSHIP**

Staples Township is accepting filings for:

- Supervisor for a three (3) year term
- Treasurer for a two (2) year term

The filing period for these offices opens at the home of the Clerk located at 48301 County 21, Staples, on December 29, 2020 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on January 12, 2021. Filing fee is \$2.00.

Please contact Bonnie Thoele at 218-296-2151 to file for office.

Bonnie Thoele, Clerk

51-52pnc

**NOTICE OF FILING
THOMASTOWN
TOWNSHIP**

Thomastown Township will hold an election for one (1) Supervisor for a three (3) year term and one (1) Treasurer for a two (2) year term. The filing period for these offices opens on December 29, 2020 and closes on January 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

To file for office, contact Stacy Dukowitz at 218-296-0834.

Stacy Dukowitz, Clerk

51-52pnc

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF TODD
SEVENTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
Court File No.
77-PR-20-1028**

In Re: Estate of
James H. Waldahl
Decedent.

**NOTICE OF AND
ORDER FOR HEARING
ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION
OF INTESTACY,
DETERMINATION
OF HEIRS, FORMAL
APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
AND NOTICE TO
CREDITORS**

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 25, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. a hearing will be held in this Court at Long Prairie, Minnesota, on a petition for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of decedent's heirs, and for the appointment of **Meagan Waldahl** whose addresses are **814 2nd Street SW, Wadena, MN 56482**, as personal representative of the decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets; to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; to sell real and personal property; and to do all necessary acts for the decedent's estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred. .

BY THE COURT

Dated: December 15, 2020

Daniel A. Benson
Judge of District Court
Rhonda Bot
Court Administrator
Mary Van Koer, Deputy
Court Administrator

Jeffrey D. Pederson
Attorney for Petitioner
PEDERSON & PEDERSON, P.A.
24 SW Colfax Avenue
P.O. Box 623
Wadena, MN 56482
Atty. Lic. #144356
Tel: 218-631-1228
Fax: 218-631-1342

52-1pnc



The Staples World newspaper is available at these fine area businesses:

Motley

- *BRICKS Travel Center
- *Holiday, Motley
- *Motley Express
- *Motley Hardware

Staples

- *Longbella Drug
- *Staples Express
- *SouthSide Mini-Mart
- *Ernie's Grocery
- *Staples True Value
- *Jon's Family Foods
- *Staples ACE Hardware
- *Speedway

We appreciate these businesses and their continued commitment to our communities.



Staples World counter sales available Tuesday morning after 10 a.m.

224 4th St. NE
Staples, MN
218-894-1112



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Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



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	DONATE YOUR CAR truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 844/220-9501	ENJOY 100% GUARANTEED delivered-to-the-door Omaha Steaks! Get 4 free Pork Chops and 4 free chicken breasts. Order the Omaha Steaks Classic - only \$129.99. Call 844/331-1614 and use code 66762CCP or visit www.omahasteaks.com/dinner96



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WANTED TO BUY WANTED: ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES Running or not. Titled or not. Cash in exchange. Sell now while prices are high! Call Dan at 612/720-2142	AT&T WIRELESS Two great new offers! Ask how to get the new iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e on us with AT&T's Buy one, Give One offer. While supplies last! Call 855/332-0464	DISH NETWORK \$59.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing fast internet \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & get a free \$100 Visa gift card. Free voice remote. Free HD DVR. Free streaming on all devices. Call today! 855/562-4309
AUCTIONS ONLINE ONLY AUCTION For 96 Ford L9000 with Boom located in Brainerd MN. Begins closing Monday December 21, 5:30 p.m. www.hallbergauktion.com 800/373-2255	DONATE YOUR CAR truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 844/220-9501	ENJOY 100% GUARANTEED delivered-to-the-door Omaha Steaks! Get 4 free Pork Chops and 4 free chicken breasts. Order the Omaha Steaks Classic - only \$129.99. Call 844/331-1614 and use code 66762CCP or visit www.omahasteaks.com/dinner96

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Staples, MN


Public notices are a community's window into the government. You look for those notices in your newspaper. From zoning regulations to local budgets, governments have used local newspapers to inform citizens of its actions as an essential part of your right to know.
Keep public notices in newspapers!

Christmas Eve services - churches coping with covid

With the Holy Season of Christmas upon us, we've reached out to area churches to see how they have been doing and to find out their plans for the traditional Christmas Eve Service.

Staples Alliance
Staples Alliance Church will hold its Christmas Eve service at 4:30 p.m.

Assembly of God
The Staples Assembly of God Church will hold its Christmas Eve service at 5:30 p.m.

Church of Christ
The Staples Church of Christ, across from Pine Grove Park, will have an in-person Christmas Eve Communion service at 4 p.m., with social distancing measures in place.

Pastor Barry Klein shared that, "As with our Sunday morning service, we will also Facebook Live the service with an FM transmitter signal out into the parking lot at 87.7. We are grateful for a great team atmosphere in the needed creativity and flexibility that had been required this year."

For more information, call the church at 218-894-2609.

Faith Lutheran/Bethany Lutheran

Faith Lutheran Church in Staples will have a Christmas Eve YouTube video service posted on its website during the week of Christmas.

Pastor Carl Larson also noted that they will be serving communion in the church sanctuary at various times on Dec. 21, 22 and 23. Appointments are necessary and people are asked to call the church office at 218-894-1546 to set up a time.

Pastor Larson went on to share that, "At the beginning of November, Faith Lutheran decided to discontinue its in-house worship as well as all other activities in the church until concerns of the spread of Covid had dissipated. Because of that action, we have posted videos of our Sunday worship service on our webpage as well as videos of Sunday School and Confirmation lessons. We also Zoom our adult Bible studies and hold

church meetings via Zoom." "Even though the Covid-19 virus has altered the way that we would hope to worship and serve at Faith, especially at Christmas, we are grateful that our membership has been so supportive and flexible to the changes that they are experiencing. But, I need to add that we are all looking forward to a time when we can again experience normalcy in our church life."

Pastor Carl Larson also leads the congregation at Bethany Lutheran in Cushing. He noted that there will be an outdoor worship service at Bethany on Christmas Eve beginning at 4:30 p.m. There is also an online worship service that can be found at their website.

In early November, Bethany closed their sanctuary to worship and has been online only. They are planning to re-open for their 9 a.m. Sunday morning worship services on Jan. 10.

Sacred Heart/St. Michael

Christmas Eve Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Church in Staples at 5 p.m.; and at St. Michael Church in Motley at 7 p.m.

On Dec. 25, a Christmas Mass will be held at Sacred Heart in Staples at 8:30 a.m.; and at St. Michael in Motley at 10:30 a.m.

The churches are open to the public, with the limitation of 50 percent capacity. Masks are required to be worn in the church at all times unless exempt.

Fr. Gabriel Walz, priest at both parishes, shared that, "2020 has been a uniquely difficult year. When the state of Minnesota went into lockdown last spring, the doors of both of our churches (Sacred Heart and St. Michael) were closed. Following guidelines set by our Diocese, we have slowly been able to resume some of our ministries in the local communities, including the celebration of public Masses.

We are still only able to have 50 percent of our seating capacity at both churches, and for this reason we are celebrating four Masses for Christmas this year. However, we are

grateful to God for the ability to resume the celebration and administration of the Sacraments within our parishes. We are holding one another in prayer in these difficult times. Remember that our hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ whose coming among us on Christmas morning is the cause of our Joy! Merry CHRISTmas everyone!

Trinity Lutheran

Trinity Lutheran Church in Staples will be conducting in-person worship for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and the Sunday following. All services will include celebration of the Lord's Supper. The services will also be live-streamed on Facebook.

Service time for Christmas Eve is at 5:30 p.m. The service will also include a special candle lighting portion with the singing of Silent Night at the close of the service. Both the Christmas morning and Sunday, Dec. 27, worship services are at 9 a.m.

Pastor Robin Collins shared, "Please remember to practice social distancing, the use of available hand sanitizer and to wear a facemask. If you are not feeling well, or have had Covid exposure, please stay home and watch the live stream. Thank you. We look forward to sharing Christmas with all and pray that God will give you his peace."

United Methodist/Staples and Motley

The Motley and Staples United Methodist Churches, led by Pastor Greg Leslie, will hold a combined Christmas Eve service via Zoom at 4 p.m. For password information, call the Staples UMC at 218-894-2008 or Motley UMC at 218-352-6466.

Thomastown Covenant

Thomastown Covenant Church, rural Staples, will hold a Family Christmas Eve service at 4:30 p.m. In addition, the church holds indoor Sunday worship services at 10:30 a.m., which are also broadcast to their parking lot on FM 87.7. The Sunday message is recorded and posted afterward at the church's website and You-

Tube channel, found at www.Thomastownchurch.com.

Pastor Scott Jorgenson shared, "Our children and youth Wednesday ministries are meeting again, but we have postponed or cancelled outreach activities such as lock-ins or Christmas parties. We have a couple of families that are choosing not to participate in on-site/in-person gatherings.

"My plan is to initiate some on-line, 'meet the new pastor' things for the kids at the start of the new year. We are limited in that we do not have internet services available at our location and cell phone coverage is spotty. I'm thankful for Lindsey at the Stomping Grounds...my go-to internet cafe."

Seventh Day Adventist

The Seventh Day Adventist Church in Staples will not be having a Christmas Eve service. Church member Alan Judd shared that they are a small congregation and most people participate in the worship services via Zoom. There are a few that attend services in person, but follow safety guidelines.

Motley Free Methodist

Motley Free Methodist Church will hold a Christmas Eve service at 4:30 p.m. In-house seating is limited this year, due to the guidelines we are under. To make a reservation, call 218-352-6888. The service will also be broadcast via Facebook Live.

Pastor Jim Johnson shared, "Like everyone else, Motley FMC has been affected by the coronavirus. Many of our church family are choosing to stay home and watch via Facebook Live rather than be in larger gatherings.

We are operating under the governor's guidelines with 50 percent capacity and social distancing as our guide. A sign regarding face masks is on the door.

We are meeting with both services every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. Our youth group and AWANA continue to function weekly as well. Our youth need social interac-



Nativity scenes in town

A number of nativity scenes depicting the birth of Jesus can be seen throughout the Staples area. Special church services are typically held on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, as Christians celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Pictured above is a nativity set at Trinity Lutheran Church in Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

tion and while we want to be safe, we also want them to have a place to interact and worship the Lord Jesus. God has been so good to us and we praise Him for guiding us in and through this pandemic.

St. John's Lutheran

St. John's Lutheran Church in Motley will be having a Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 5 p.m. Pastor Paul Koehler shared that, "We are following the attendance restrictions set by the state but haven't been in danger of exceeding capacity limits since reopening to in-person worship, so this service would be open to the public."

In commenting on how Covid-19 has affected their church, Pastor Koehler said, "...it has obviously made meeting the needs of members more difficult. I will say that members continue to remain strong in faith and trust that God will help us through this difficult time."

Lincoln Evangelical Free

Lincoln Evangelical Free Church will do a Christmas Eve worship service at 4:30 p.m. that day. In-person (public invited) and live-

streamed on our YouTube channel, "Lincoln EFree."

Pastor Don Reigstad shared that, "Lincoln has seen God's blessing during this amazing time. Within reasonable restrictions, we have continued to serve our church family and the community with modified in-person and live-streaming options. Finances are strong, over-all attendance is up 30 percent. Youth and kids ministries are helping stem the flood of mental health issues associated with distance learning. I thank God for the cooperation and enthusiasm of our people to continue ministries, albeit modified."

Cushing Baptist

Cushing Baptist Church will not be holding a Christmas Eve service, but will be offering a post-Christmas service on Sunday, Dec. 27, at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Dan Holmes shared that the majority of their congregation is elderly, and their attendance each Sunday is between 12 - 15 worshipers. They have had a few members who have had Covid, but thankfully were not seriously ill. Precautionary measures are in place at the church.

SURVEY continued from page 1b

said Leatherman. "In some places folks are not happy with public schools, but in Staples it is not falling off."

The survey was done through 400 telephone interviews in the district in November, with 37 percent cellphone only homes and 50 percent homes with both cell phone and landline phones.

Those surveyed said what they liked most about the school district was good teachers, broad programs and good academics. They felt the most serious issues are the pandemic, lack of funding, facilities needs and high taxes.

On a question on the quality of schools compared to neighboring districts, 22 percent said Staples-Motley was better, 59 percent said about the same and nine percent said worse. "The norm is about two to one, you are about two and a half to one, so there are more folks indicating that they are better," said Leatherman.

The school also received better than average ratings on questions about meeting the needs of students, creating a welcoming culture and engaging the public. The school's

handling of the pandemic also received high ratings, with 77 percent saying they have done excellent or good. A majority felt the school was focused on educational needs, not just the need to keep schools open.

"It is a strong endorsement on how the school handled opening this fall," said Leatherman.

On a question about job performance, the school board, superintendent/administration and teachers all had higher ratings than in a similar survey taken two years ago. "These results are counter to what we are seeing elsewhere," said Leatherman. He said a normal rating is about 2.5 positive responses to every one negative response, but the school district is seeing 4.5 positive to one negative.

One survey question result ran counter to the board's plan to implement a building referendum: "Do current facilities meet needs?" In the 2018 survey, 77 percent said yes, and that number moved up to 82 percent in this year's survey.

"People don't believe the buildings are in terrible shape and don't meet the needs," said Leatherman. "The key is linking what is

happening in the classroom to educational needs."

After the survey respondents were given a short explanation of the needs in the district, they were asked if they would support a two building option that would cost \$64 million, or a one building option at \$80 million. Twenty percent said they would support either option, 31 said they would only support the \$64 million option, and 17 percent said they only support the \$80 million option. The remaining 30 percent would not support either project.

On a question about tax increases, 25 percent said they were against all tax increases, 27 percent were in favor of all, and 46 percent said they would be for some. That tax predisposition was the same as in 2018.

"The overall atmosphere for the district is good, counter to what we are seeing across the state," said Leatherman. "The two facility plan probably has most support, it is easier to support two at a lower cost than one at a higher cost.

Board member Bruce Lund said the survey two years ago also showed a favorable atmosphere for a referendum, but it did not come close to passing.

Superintendent Shane Tappe said this year's survey asked about the quality of information the public received about the referendum two years ago, where 38 percent rated the communication either fair or poor. "That cannot happen again," said Tappe. "Communication, along with quality, really derailed the project."

Tappe said another key will be to tell the public about the value of their tax impact on the project. If there is no referendum, the school is expected to spend \$14 million on repairs and still be left with an old building that will need \$7 million more in repairs later on. "Do you want to spend \$150 per year (in taxes) for the \$14 million project or for \$250 you get the \$64 million version," said Tappe.

Tappe said they will present the board with a

Letter to Santa:





Wear a mask in public spaces.



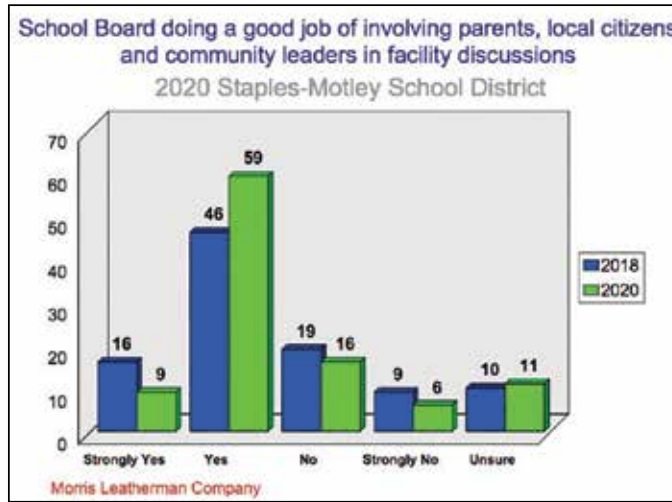
Get tested if you have any symptoms.



Answer if your health department calls.



STAY SAFE MN



Community involvement

When asked if the school district is involving the community in the building project, fewer said strongly yes compared to a 2018 survey, but also fewer said no. The numbers are the percent of responses in the survey.

proposal to move forward with a referendum for a two building project at \$64 at their Dec. 21 board meeting.



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