



Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1

Christmas comes near

Alyssa Vanderhoof, artist and author, (inside) completes the finishing touches on "The Grinch" holding a cup of coffee. The painting was completed on the Stomping Grounds coffee shop window in Staples. Customer Bev Nelsen was picking up her coffee to go. Alyssa is a barista at the Stomping Grounds. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)

'Time To Rise' puts Staples-Motley school facility plans online

Staples-Motley Schools launched SMTimeToRise.com, a new website dedicated to informing residents about the district's long-term facilities planning.

"We're excited to launch this website to keep residents informed about our facility planning process," said Superintendent Shane Tappe. "The district strives to be transparent with this process, and this website will make it easy for community members to have access to information about our planning. We'll

continue to update the site throughout the coming months."

Over the last five years, Staples-Motley Schools has sought a solution to its aging facilities.

Local voters had an opportunity to decide on a \$60 million referendum plan to address these issues in May 2019 but they rejected the plan.

"In conversations throughout the community, we found that residents agree our district needs to make investments in our schools, but they didn't



believe the district proposed the right plan," said Tappe. "We will continue to seek the best plan to make improvements to our facilities. That includes gathering community feedback,

making sure questions are answered and working through different solutions to ensure we produce a proposal that reflects the top priorities of our communities."

Weather

This Week's Forecast			
	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 2	35°	21°	P. Cloudy
Dec. 3	34	22	P. Cloudy
Dec. 4	40	25	Sunny
Dec. 5	40	27	P. Cloudy
Dec. 6	36	22	M. Sunny
Dec. 7	31	23	P. Cloudy
Dec. 8	37	29	Cloudy

Last Year, 2019			
	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 2	24°	-7°	Cloudy
Dec. 3	32	15	Sunny
Dec. 4	34	21	Sunny
Dec. 5	32	15	P. Sunny
Dec. 6	20	8	Cloudy
Dec. 7	30	19	Cloudy
Dec. 8	29	29	Snow

Average Temps:
H = 29° Low = 14°
Total Snow:
For week: .75"
Oct. - Nov.: 15:25"

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Community divides identified in school building survey

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Income differences, in-crowd vs. out crowd, and differences between Staples and Motley were identified as possible factors as to why the Staples-Motley school referendum did not pass in May, 2019.

Those suggestions came from a survey that was presented to the Staples-Motley School Board in October. The survey was taken in the spring of 2020, and was mostly conducted online. More than half of respondents had attended Staples-Motley schools, and 86 percent are parents of current students.

In addition to questions rating the school and facilities, respondents also answered "What great things are happening at Staples-Motley Schools?", "Factors that led to the referendum failing" and "Advice to make new facilities planning successful."

The respondents were positive about the quality of education in the district, with 62 percent saying quality of education was "good or excellent," 33 percent saying "average or I don't know" and four percent voting "poor."

The biggest building needs were identified as facility condition, gym space and classroom space.

The high school's biggest issue was identified as facility condition, and respondents said high school programs needing the most improvement were life skills programs and career skills.

Respondents rated the facilities as the most important education challenge, along with parent/teacher/student accountability/respect for all. Safety and security were the next highest identified challenge.

Great things

"What great things are happening at Staples-Motley Schools?" answers ranged from classes to activities to administration and staff doing a great job. Educational opportuni-

ties mentioned included College In Schools and Post-Secondary Education Option (PSEO) college classes, culinary class, robotics club, Connections, music, art, community education, special education, school garden, Tech Mobile, and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics).

Specific activities mentioned included orchestra, fine arts, sports, speech, FFA and cheerleading.

One respondent said "We moved our children to Staples specifically for the arts program."

Praise for staff and teachers included: advanced behavioral methods supported by science, enthusiastic and positive attitude, communication and planning, making positive changes, dedication to students, passion and leadership.

There were a few negative comments in the "great things" section, including "there is a divide and those on the positive side of the divide are doing great things." That notion of making everyone feel welcome came up again in the "Advice to make new facilities planning successful" section.

Referendum failing

Cost was by far the most common answer to the question "Factors that led to the referendum failing."

Respondents also identified the economy, elderly and low income families in the community.

Among those answers, some felt the project was too big, too fancy and too excessive. Some answers suggested more gym space was not needed and new classrooms didn't need to be built. Several also identified the community center portion of the project as not needed.

Others felt the community did not realize the potential of the project, including the commenter who said "People being cheap and not realizing how much it would help our community."

Communication was another factor identified. A

few people noted that one of the fliers sent out by the school contained some incorrect information, so the school had to send out a second mailing. To some respondents, that created a lack of trust. One said the school appeared to be changing the numbers, so they felt it was a lack of honesty.

Some commenters felt the school didn't provide a picture of what would happen if the referendum didn't pass. "It wasn't communicated what would have to be done to stay up to code in the next years and what it would cost eventually in trying to fix what was there," said one respondent.

Commenters noted the large school district borders with many voters living on the edges who do not identify with the community.

There was also an undercurrent of misinformation that people noticed.

"People who were against the referendum were spreading lies," was one response. Another said "Many voted based on false information that was circulating in the community."

A few respondents identified social media as main sources of disinformation.

Some of the misinformation showed up on the survey results, such as the person who said their taxes would have increased by three times. Others were not aware of information that was reported and readily available, such as the process of choosing between the one building and two building options.

Staples vs. Motley

Differences between Staples and Motley were identified as "Factors that led to the referendum failing."

Some respondents noted that the referendum was held the same school year that the district reduced the number of buildings. Students were pulled out of the Motley school with only the two schools in Staples being used. One respondent said "Referendum was focused on improving the Staples community. It feels like the Motley area of the school district is forgotten."

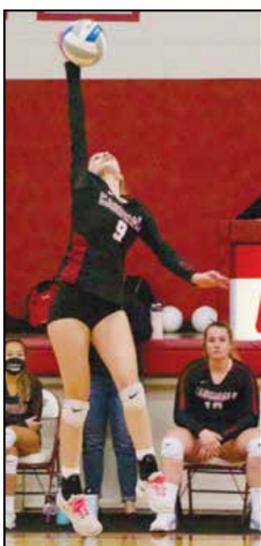
Williams enters guilty plea



Staples resident Bryce Williams entered a guilty plea on one count of conspiracy to commit arson, in connection with the burning of a Minneapolis Police station during the riots that followed the police killing of George Floyd.

U.S. Attorney Eric MacDonald announced the plea but did not give more details.

According to police, surveillance video shows Williams holding a device as another rioter lit it and brought it into the building. Three other men have been indicted for arson in the precinct's destruction.



The high school volleyball season ended after just eight games this year. See sports, page 7a.

Public Notices

Todd
Commissioners:
9A

Obituaries

Thelma Edin
Angeline Gillson
Violet Jessen
Wesley Johnson
Melvin Nefstead
Pauline Page
Gordon Sampson
Bazil Wales
Terry Walther

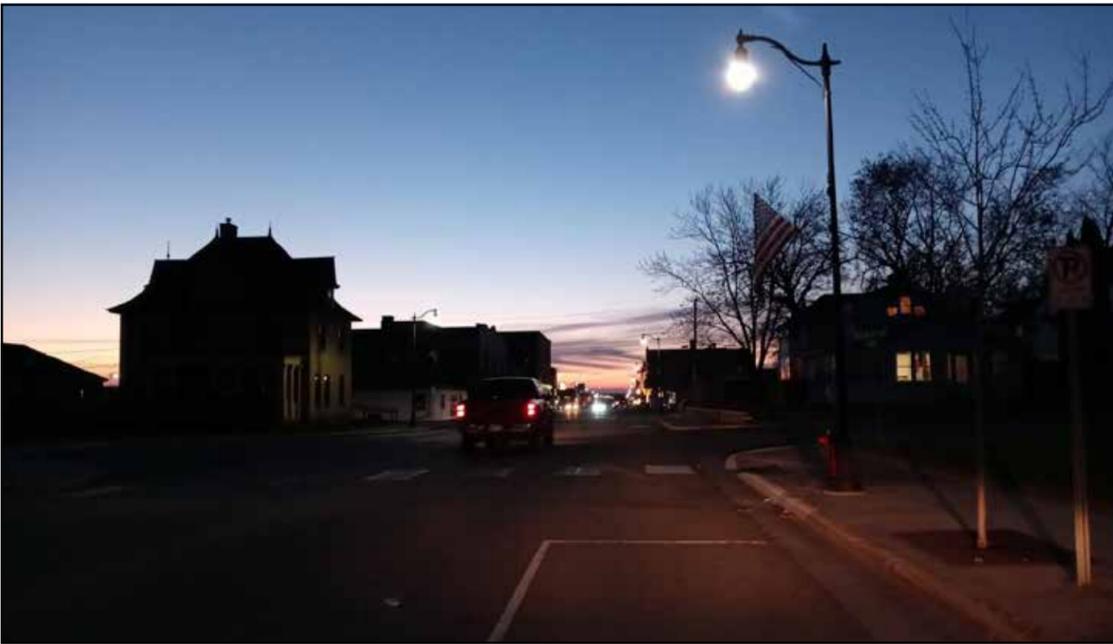


Thank you for subscribing!



Moonbeams on the rails

A full moon illuminated the rails leading to the Staples Railroad Depot as the sun prepared to crest for sunrise Nov. 30. (Staples World photo by Janice Winter)



Illuminated view

Streetlamps and vehicle headlights provided illumination along 2nd Avenue in Staples recently, at twilight time. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Law enforcement reports, Motley area

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

Nov. 23 - The MPD sent a letter to a Motley resident regarding a shipping container ordinance violation.
Nov. 24 - The MPD issued a citation to Vernon Surratt, 40, for driving with a revoked license.
Nov. 24 - The MPD spoke with a suicidal subject in Motley. The subject stated he did not want any help from the MPD in finding him a safe place to stay or in contacting social services for assistance. The subject called later, stating he was staying at his dad's residence. The MPD spoke with the subject's father who stated he would take care of him.

Nov. 21 - The MCSO responded to a suicidal subject in Motley. Subject was later taken to Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples for a mental health evaluation.
Nov. 19 - The MCSO received a report of a lost chainsaw. Subject stated that it had fallen out of a trailer on Hwy 10 in Cushing.
Nov. 19 - The MCSO responded to a report of a burglary and theft of two trailers at the 1400 block of W. Shamaineau Dr., Motley. The caller stated that the incident took place sometime in the last month and that there are no suspects.

regarding public nuisance violations.

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m DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Wadena County

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Staples World

DEADLINES

Newspaper deadline for copy and advertising:

12 noon Fridays

Staples World

Staples World newspaper
We are available Mon.-Fri. from 8 a.m. - noon; closed for lunch.
Mon.- Thurs. afternoons, please call first.

Classifieds: office@staplesworld.com
Copy: editor@staplesworld.com Notary service: morning only.
Excluding holiday schedules, **deadline is Friday by noon.**
224 4th St. NE, Staples, MN, 218-894-1112

Looking back

75 YEARS AGO - 1945

Dec. 6, 1945 - 'Santa Claus is coming to Town' and will be in Staples Saturday afternoon, Dec. 15, at the New Staples Theatre, where he will greet the hundreds of children who will be guests of the Staples Civic and Commerce Association at their annual Christmas party.

Manager James Randgaard of the theatre states that he has secured, "Louisiana Hayride" for the main feature of the afternoon shows, and along with this there will be several comic

Compiled by Dawn Timbs



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week's archive photo is from our April 19, 1973 edition. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photos? 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.

shorts for the children. Two shows will be presented during the day. The first matinee is at 10 a.m. and this is for the city children only. The second show will be at 2 o'clock, and this is for the rural children only. Santa Claus will be at both shows to distribute the treats for the children.

Dec. 6, 1945 - Christmas gifts for smokers, as advertised by DesMarais Confectionery in Staples. "Give a man his favorite smoke and he'll love you forever. And what better time to win his love than on Christmas? Pipe, cigarette or cigar smoker, we can please him," the ad stated. Combination humidor and pipe rack, \$3.35 to \$5.50; Royal Duke Pipes (filter style) \$1.00.

Dec. 6, 1945 - 'Flu and colds take toll in Motley village,' read the headline. The article goes on to say, 'Colds and flu-pneumonia is prevalent in both town and community. There have been many absences from school and from other public gatherings because of illness. Motley is represented in the Staples Hospital again. Mrs. W. N. Morey was taken to the hospital Thursday evening, following an illness of three days, and has been very ill with pneumonia. Monday evening found her much improved. Mrs. Lionel Stelck was a pneumonia patient from Tuesday until Friday. Mrs. Wallace Scruppie, who underwent an operation last week, returned home Friday and is better. Little Janice Hanson, a small twin daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Hanson, came home Friday from the hospital after a siege of flu-pneumonia. The little girl is still quite weak.'

50 YEARS AGO - 1970

Dec. 10, 1970 - A new business opening in Staples this week was the Four Seasons Sports Shop, located on North Sixth Street, in the Tug Hurd building. Owners of the shop are Gary Farber and Dick Motl. The business carries a complete line of sporting goods.

Dec. 10, 1970 - Terry Farber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Farber, Motley, was presented the Silver Star from the Dept. of the Army at ceremonies in his parents' home Dec. 4.

The Silver Star was earned by Farber while serving with the U.S. Army in Vietnam in Aug. of 1968.

Col. James L. Brummer, professor of Military Science at St. John's University, Collegeville, made the presentation. Col. Brummer, formerly of Staples, is the son of Mrs. Ida Brummer.

Farber, who is now discharged from the military service following the completion of his tour of duty, resides in Motley. He is a 1967 graduate of Staples high school.

Dec. 10, 1970 - Mrs. Ruby Kittilson, school nurse, said that 439 students of the Staples schools participated in the recently held immunization clinic.

Drs. Lund, Reichelderfer and Thompson handled the clinic, at which time, immunizations were given against diphtheria-tetanus, smallpox and polio.

Dec. 10, 1970 - The Staples team went down to their first defeat in Minnesota Central Basketball league play Wednesday evening as they took a 79 to 67 defeat at the hands of Motley.

Brown led the Motley scoring with 24 counters, followed by Swecker with



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo, published in the Nov. 27, 1986 edition of the Staples World, featured Joe (left) and Amanda Bilek, children of Tom and DeEtta Bilek of rural Aldrich, tending to the flock of turkeys at the family farm. The photo outline stated, "While most of us look forward to Thanksgiving, the holiday holds little attraction for the nation's turkey population." One of the luckier birds is "Tom," who along with three hens, comprise the brood flock for the Bilek farm...Six other birds they raised weren't as lucky, dressing out to about 40 pounds for the toms and 20 pounds for the hens, according to Mrs. Bilek.'

Tom and DeEtta Bilek called in to successfully identify their children. They were surprised to see the photo, they said, adding that it brought back memories and conversation with Joe and Amanda who were home for Thanksgiving.

The Bileks still reside at their farm in rural Aldrich, formerly owned by DeEtta's parents, John and Evelyn Wicht. It's where DeEtta (Wicht) was born and raised, she shared. After DeEtta and Tom were married, they lived for some time in the Twin Cities, but moved back to the family farm

23. Pietz connected for 12 and Shackelford had 10. The Motley scoring was completed with 6 points by Benke and 4 by Kristenson.

For Staples, the leading offensive man was Wolhowe with 26. Kevin Johnson hit double figures with 17. The remainder of the scoring was as follows: Joeger, 8; Tollefson, 6; Hirschey, 6; and Flaten, 4.

25 YEARS AGO - 1995

Dec. 7, 1995 - Deer hunters in east central Minnesota experienced one of their best hunting seasons ever in 1995, according to preliminary reports.

Figures from deer registration stations indicate the firearms deer harvest in the 15 counties north of the Twin City Metro area up to and including Wadena County are up about 20 percent from last year.

Dec. 7, 1995 - Members of several local churches are working together to give the community a play entitled "The Christmas Story." The play will be presented Dec. 15, at the Staples Assembly of God Church.

The piece, written and directed by Carol Heldman of Staples, was originally

presented several years ago in the Staples United Methodist Church. It chronicles not only the birth of Jesus Christ, but follows him through adulthood.

Mark DeBow is the choir director and Sandy Paske-witz is the pianist. Cast members include Jayme Hajek, Mary; Scott Smith, Joseph; Jan Barron, Elizabeth; Ron Hume, Zacharias; Mike Heldman, King Herod; Matt Olson, two-year-old Jesus; Randy Taber, Mature Jesus; and Cheryl Tepley, Lyn Prindle, Frank Tepley as Innkeepers.

Dec. 7, 1995 - Jackie Dumpprope, Staples, was the top fundraiser at the Multiple Sclerosis Bike Tour in North Dakota, raising \$3,860 last summer for her participation in the 150 mile bike ride.

10 YEARS AGO - 2010

Dec. 9, 2010 - Elmer Johnson of Foley said he is still in shock after learning that his friend, Gary Donald Deppa, of Cushing, is gone.

Deppa, 59 years old, drowned Dec. 4, after his four-wheeler went through the ice on Lake Alexander just after 6 p.m.

"We were friends since

in 1984. They raised turkeys for several years, along with beef cattle. It's been an all-organic farm since 1998. Tom shared during their first years in Aldrich, he was still working for the St. Paul Fire Department and continued driving back and forth until his retirement in 1991.

The Bileks recalled how excited their kids were to bring a turkey to Lincoln Model School in Staples for 'show and tell' that year, and how the other students were excited to watch the giant bird run around the gymnasium. Joe was in sixth grade and Amanda in second. Amanda was the one who initially asked her teacher if it would be okay to bring the turkey to school. Although he was raised a 'city kid' himself, Tom said he is so glad he and DeEtta decided to move to the country all those years ago. Both he and DeEtta said they can't think of a better place to have raised their children. Currently, both Joe and Amanda Bilek live in the Twin Cities area. Joe works as a St. Paul Police Officer and Amanda is the Senior Public Policy Director for Minnesota Corngrowers.

Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

Staples Police report

On Nov. 18, Staples Police received a report of a man making inappropriate sexual comments to a juvenile female while she was at work. The parent advised precautions were in place at her work and the suspect was advised to stay away.

On Nov. 18, Staples Police responded to a report of a two vehicle crash with one vehicle rolling over at the intersection of Highway 10 and County Road 83. Upon arrival police learned that three people were involved and only minor injuries were reported. The three occupants did go to Lakewood Health System ER to be evaluated. The Staples Ambulance, Fire Department and Scott's Southtown assisted at the scene.

On Nov. 18, Staples Police assisted a male subject who was involved in an accident earlier in the day with a ride from the hospital to Timberlake Hotel.

On Nov. 20, Staples Police responded to a personal injury accident on the 1100 block of Highway 10 E. The driver lost consciousness on his way to the ER for a medical issue and hit a light pole. There was severe damage to the vehicle and the driver suffered minor injuries.

On Nov. 20, Staples Police received a report of theft from Lakewood Health System.

On Nov. 20, Staples Police received a report of a Lakewood home health care nurse who went to a res-

idence in Staples and was bitten by a dog.

On Nov. 21, Staples Police assisted Todd County Sheriff's Department in attempting to locate a cow on Highway 10. Police were unable to locate the cow.

Reported: On Nov. 21, Staples Police assisted Minnesota State Patrol with a vehicle versus cow accident on Highway 10. Also there to assist were Verndale Police Department and Wadena County Sheriff's Department.

On Nov. 21, Staples Police responded to the 100 block of Highway 10 NW, as it was reported that a male party was walking in traffic. Upon arrival, the subject was found to be lying in the median, and having a medical issue. Staples Ambulance responded to the scene and the subject was transported to the hospital for medical assistance.

On Nov. 21, Staples Police observed a stalled, occupied vehicle, at the intersection of Highway 10 and Todd County Road 83. The driver had run out of gas.

On Nov. 22, Staples Police received a request to conduct a welfare check on a party on the 800 block of 4th Street NE. Police accompanied the reporting party to the residence, and after investigation, contacted the Staples Ambulance to respond. The subject was transported to the Lakewood Hospital for medical care.

CLC suspends winter sports season

Central Lakes College announced that it is suspending its men's and women's basketball seasons due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic. The college does, however, remain optimistic about hosting spring sports.

Central Lakes College President Hara Charlier said, "The decision to suspend Raider basketball was made after a great deal of conversation and careful consideration of data. COVID-19 infection rates continue to increase throughout our state, our region, and our college community. Unfortunately, the indoor nature of basketball and the challenges associated with competition carry significant inherent risk. While our players and coaches are committed to following all mitigation protocols, the risk is simply too great."

"We understand and share the deep sense of disappointment felt by our student-athletes. We will continue to work to provide meaningful opportunities for our athletes to develop, engage, and be successful at the college. Rest assured that our commitment to Raider athletics is as strong as ever, and we look forward

to cheering for our Raiders next year," said Charlier.

The college is, however, planning to host softball and baseball next semester. According to administrators, the outdoor, low-contact nature of spring athletics reduces risk. They are hopeful that with strong mitigation measures and COVID transmission rates expected to improve in the spring, Raider athletes will be on the field. The nature and timing of practices remains to be determined but will follow CLC COVID protocols. Spring training out-of-state trips have been canceled.

Jim Russell, CLC Athletic Director, said he is disappointed about winter sports, but also understands the situation at hand.

"We appreciate our administration for their efforts and the communication process in making these decisions. We are excited about softball and baseball and for our student athletes who will be participating this spring."

CLC requires safety plans from athletics following guidelines in place by the NJCAA, conference and from the college's pandemic response team.

DEADLINE
for all classified ads and copy is 12 noon Friday
For the Staples World


Wear a mask in public spaces.


Get tested if you have any symptoms.


Answer if your health department calls.

m MINNESOTA STAY SAFEMN



Kresha asks for progress report on academics

House GOP Education Leads Rep. Sondra Erickson, Princeton, and Rep. Ron Kresha, Little Falls, are requesting that the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) provide a statewide status report on student academic achievement. The request comes after a report from KARE 11 revealed that, with the first quarter of the school year almost complete, nearly 40 percent of grades for high school students in the St. Paul Public School District are failing.

“This news from the St. Paul Public School District illustrates the significant damage COVID-19 restric-

tions and school closures are having on Minnesota students,” said Rep. Erickson. “Sadly, it appears that the academic trajectory of an entire generation of students will be stunted because of disruptions caused by the pandemic. Now, more than ever, we need to come to a full understanding of the harm being done to students so that we can try and change course before it is too late.”

“This information is essential so that we can see how students are being impacted,” said Rep. Ron Kresha. “These students are the future, and we need to

make sure that we are not failing them. We need to know the full scope of how distance and hybrid learning are impacting achievement as soon as possible so we can change tactics as needed and help our students succeed in spite of this current crisis.”

Erickson and Kresha are asking MDE to compile data to demonstrate the impact hybrid and distance learning models are having on academic achievement in hopes of tailoring state policy to better respond to the educational needs of students.

Startups key to Minnesota post-virus recovery

By Commissioner Steve Grove
Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)

First, I'd just note that we gathered state leaders, partners and startups from across the state recently for a virtual event to celebrate the one-year anniversary of Launch Minnesota, a program designed to accelerate startups. You can find out more in Launch Minnesota's First-Year Progress Report.

I'd like to share a message I wrote, which appeared in the Star Tribune about the importance of our startup community to Minnesota's economic recovery:

To say that 2020 has been a challenging year for the Minnesota economy would be an understatement. In the first three months of the COVID-19 pandemic, we lost a stunning 385,000 jobs. We've paid over \$8.5 billion in unemployment insurance benefits to Minnesotans — 10 times more than we ever have in a single year. And consumer confidence hinges on the trajectory of the coronavirus, which continues to spread at an alarming rate.

But from recession will come renewal. While a lot of work remains to protect our workforce and economy from the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot wait to begin the work of making Minnesota's economic recovery strong, smart and equitable.

One of the most important things we can do in the coming year is to foster the growth of new businesses and startups. Small businesses account for a whopping 47 percent of the jobs in the state, a trend that's mirrored nationally. What's more, new businesses are responsible for nearly all net new jobs and 20 percent of gross job creation in our economy, according to a study published by MIT.

Growth from new businesses always accelerates during recessions. Entrepreneurs see possibilities for disruption in the market, and layoffs force people into thinking creatively about their future. According to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor 2020 report, while 65 percent of startup founders say they are building businesses because they “want to

make a difference in the world,” over 40 percent also say they're starting something new “to earn a living because jobs are scarce.”

It's vital that Minnesota capitalize on the creative energy that comes with recessions to create successful businesses and great jobs for those who've lost them.

One of the most promising sectors to focus on is technology. During the Great Recession 2007-09, America saw the creation of WhatsApp, Instagram, Venmo, Uber, Slack, just to name a few. During the stagflation of the 1970s, Microsoft was born. And General Electric (a technology company for its time!) started in the middle of a six-year recession way back in the 1870s.

Here in Minnesota, our last recession saw new tech companies launch that went on to make national news. Miromatrix, a regenerative medicine startup from 2009 that seeks to eliminate the waitlist for organ transplants, recently won an innovation award from the U.S. Department of Health. Sports Engine, a youth sports startup, started in 2008 and was acquired eight years later by NBC Universal.

However, Minnesota faces some headwinds. According to data from the U.S. Labor Department, Minnesota ranked 48th in the rate of new entrepreneurs per capita in 2019, and has only exceeded the national average for four years of the last 20. We also rank low on startups that lead to early job creation, coming in 40th last year.

Where we're above average — way above average — is in how many of our new businesses survive. That same Labor Department study ranked Minnesota fourth in the country for the five-year survivability rate for new companies, at almost 55 percent.

People who start stuff here tend to stick at it. It's that Midwestern work ethic, something we should be proud of. It's also a key to the future of new business growth in our state. Minnesota has always been a state of problem-solvers, innovators who care about what they're building because it contributes to society in a positive way.

If the startups that came out of Silicon Valley in the last recession found

new ways to capture our eyeballs on mobile devices, then the startups coming out of Minnesota during this pandemic-fueled recession should focus on solving our most important problems.

Minnesota is well-positioned to be an epicenter of that kind of business growth.

With a strong corporate community and excellent business clusters in health, medical technology, agriculture and retail, we can be a national hub for creating great new businesses that will shape America's post-pandemic future.

But we're going to have to work together to make it happen.

Last year, the MN Department of Employment and Economic Development developed Launch Minnesota, a program designed to encourage entrepreneurs to take the leap by providing business incentives and educational opportunities to get started on their journey. It includes an angel tax credit to increase venture capital investment and mentorship opportunities for early stage founders.

All of these programs have equity provisions designed to help entrepreneurs who might otherwise be overlooked. If we're going to get this recovery right, we have to include everyone.

We're celebrating the anniversary of Launch Minnesota, and are looking ahead to the future. Already, there are some promising trends.

In the third quarter, business starts in Minnesota kicked up nearly 60 percent compared to a year ago. So far in during the pandemic, we're above the national average in incorporated business starts, ranking 21st nationwide. And startups in our medical technology sector known as “Medical Alley” have raised a record \$1 billion in capital this year, a promising sign that investors are beginning to turn to Minnesota to look for solutions.

The opportunity we have to define Minnesota as a hub of problem-solvers who build job-creating companies that matter to the world will define the next chapter of our state's economy.

It's an opportunity that we must seize, the renewal of our economy depends on it.

Quote of the week

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

— William Arthur Ward

Help is available for hungry Minnesotans

Minnesotans who have recently lost their jobs and watched their incomes drop have less to spend on necessities, including food. As the struggle to put healthy food on the table has increased, there is more help available from state and local sources.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the state and its community partners have issued food benefits to more than 400,000 Minnesotans per month, including children who missed out on school meals. In most cases, the aid has been funded through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

“Our responsibility is to help hungry Minnesotans,” said Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead. “Right now, the need is astronomical and we only expect it to increase as the pandemic continues. With the support of both state and federal funding, we are helping ease Minnesotans' burdens during a difficult time.”

SNAP ensures that people have resources to buy food, and that grocery stores and farmers markets have customers, even as the economy hurts during this pandemic. Food shelves, and food banks help fill in the gaps.

Many Minnesotans may be applying for benefits for the first time during this pandemic. DHS' SNAP Outreach providers can assist with SNAP applications by providing one-on-one assistance as well as helping individuals understand their SNAP benefits. Use this list of SNAP outreach providers for assistance.

Families and individuals in need of additional food support can find links to resources on the department's website at mn.gov/dhs/food-emergency/ or by calling the Food Helpline at 1-888-711-1151. Families with immediate needs replacing their child's school meals should contact their child's school to learn about available options.

Since the pandemic began, hungry Minnesotans have been able to take advantage of extra SNAP benefits, including for families of 267,000 school children who would have received free or reduced-price lunches but did not due to school closures; a texting pilot in multiple languages to get the word out to as many families as possible; and the chance to purchase food on

line at Walmart or Amazon using their Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards.

“Hunger is — and always has been — a health issue,” Harpstead said. “When people cannot get enough nutritious food, their health suffers. Low or no wages, difficulty travelling to get food, high housing costs and isolation for many seniors and people with disabilities puts an added strain on families' food budgets and exacerbates health concerns. All of those problems are now amplified with COVID-19.”

This month, the department issued \$12 million in CARES Act funding through the Minnesota COVID Food Fund Grant to 240 tribal governments, nonprofit agencies or local units of government that provide food and other items for food shelves throughout the state.

The USDA recently approved November Emergency SNAP benefits, which the department is issuing in December.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)

- Tri-County Community Action Partnership (TCCAP) Geographic Area Served: Crow Wing, Morrison and Todd counties. Contact: Danette Ringwelski, Community Services Director danette.ringwelski@tccaction.com, 320-232-7850

- MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership. Population Served: Low income residents with an emphasis on the senior population. Geographic Area Served: Becker, Hubbard, Mahnom, Otter Tail and Wadena counties. Contact: Lynn Nesland, Stabilization Services Manager lynnesland@mahube.org, 218-632-3600

- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota — Moorhead Population Served: Minnesota seniors, ages 60 and older and their spouses (regardless of age) Geographic Area Served: Counties of Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Red Lake, Pennington, Polk, Norman, Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Mahnom, Cass, Crow Wing, Todd, Wadena, Morrison, Kandiyohi, Meeker, McLeod, Renville, Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Pipestone, Murray, Cottonwood, Rock, Nobles, Jackson, Sibley, Nicollet, LeSueur, Brown, Blue Earth, Watonwan, Waseca, Martin and Fribault. Contact: Kristin Schurrer, Senior Program Director kristin.schurrer@lssmn.org, 612-237-3025

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

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

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'Cheery three' songbirds brighten a dull season

We tend to forget from one year to the next just how sudden is the transition from summer greens and fall colors to the somber landscape of autumn and winter. Maples, aspen, and birch show us a riot of reds, oranges, and golds, but wind, rain, and early snow soon put those bright colors under our feet. We can be philosophical about it, but that doesn't alter the fact that we face a months-long color palette of browns and grays, broken only by the green of an occasional pine, spruce, or cedar, against a backdrop of snow.

When this transition arrives, and before the outdoor fun of ice fishing, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling are viable options, good cheer is at a premium. That's true in even a normal year. But as anyone who has not been living under a rock knows, this has been anything but a normal year, with the coronavirus pandemic radically altering our ability to socialize and entertain ourselves. To find cheer, in other words.

But cheer can come from unexpected places. One of the places I find it during this time of seasonal limbo is in the backyard wildlife that is no farther away than the world just beyond my windows. Songbirds, gray and red squirrels, cottontail rabbits, even an occasional treetop-skimming eagle—at least, while the lake is still open—offer a diversion as we accustom ourselves to the bare landscape and await the fun that will come later.

Among the most cheering are several songbirds that I begin to notice more now. They've been here all along, but have been overshadowed by the abundance and color of summer bird life. They're like pedestrians that go unnoticed when the sidewalk is crowd-

ed, but stand out when it's nearly deserted.

In plumage they're subtle, not gaudy. Each is a member of a different branch on the avian evolutionary tree, but share habits that enable them to endure our harsh Minnesota winters while other songbirds must fly hundreds—even thousands—of miles to climates where they can survive. These cheerful avian residents are the chickadee, the nuthatch, and the junco.

The black-capped chickadee is the most animated and visible, with a curiosity and confidence that make it far more tolerant of human contact than most other birds. It is small—smaller than our sparrows—and easily the most vocal of these three, eager to announce its presence with its trademark "chick-a-dee-dee-dee" greeting. Besides a winter diet that relies heavily on insect eggs and larvae found in crevices of tree bark and other nooks and crannies, the chickadee is an eager and regular diner at backyard bird feeders. It is a chickadee ritual to alight on a feeder, pluck a sunflower seed from it and return to a nearby branch, there to work diligently to open the tough shell for the nutrient-packed nutmeat inside.

Our black-capped chickadee has a northern cousin, the boreal chickadee; boreal meaning of the high latitude forests, a bird unlikely to show up at our feeders. It is typically found in the dense spruce forests of Canada and northern border regions of the U.S. It is the shy cousin to the black-capped chickadee's outgoing, on-stage presence, preferring interior conifer branches where it is easily overlooked.

The nuthatch is actually two subspecies, the larger—sparrow-size—white-breasted nuthatch, and the slightly smaller red-breasted nuthatch. Both share the unusual feeding habit of working their way down a tree trunk—head-first—in their quest to find slumbering insects, larvae, or eggs. The white-breasted nuthatch is said to be the more likely of

the two to show up at your bird feeder, taking suet or seeds to supplement their natural forage.

Red-breasted nuthatches are more seed-dependent than their larger relative, and are generally the more northerly nesting of the two, tending to show up at points farther south only when the crop of conifer seeds is deficient. Both birds are plumed blue-gray on their upper parts, with their breast feathers matching their respective names, white on the larger bird and a rusty red on its smaller relative. The vocals of both birds are similar, described as a nasal-sounding "yank, yank," or "amp, amp."

Even before the fall migration of the warblers, the robins, orioles and others, slate-colored juncos have appeared, often seen scratching in the leaves and grass for seeds and insects. This ground feeding habit persists in winter, when juncos pick seeds from below backyard feeders that have fallen to the ground as other birds feed above.

The junco is sparrow-like in shape, but smaller, with slate-gray upper feathers—thus the "slate-colored"—and whitish-gray underparts. It was once thought that there were several species across the United States, with such plumage variations as black heads, rusty flanks, or white wings. But since they all interbreed where their ranges overlap, today's bird experts have concluded they are one species, and have decided on the name dark-eyed junco as a compromise. Most that we see in the Midwest are of slate-colored plumage, so we can be excused for being old-fashioned and calling them that.

By any name, these pre-winter visitors help keep our spirits up as we accustom ourselves to the reality of a long winter ahead, and await the pastimes that make it more tolerable.

MMFCU hosting meeting to detect and prevent senior fraud

Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union is sponsoring a free seminar, Senior Fraud Prevention: Stopping Scams and Staying Safe, on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m.-noon.

The meeting will be held online on Zoom, pre-registration is required at www.mmfcu.org/eservices/upcoming-events.

Seniors can learn how to recognize the most common forms of fraud and the tactics aimed at seniors and others from experts at Lutheran Social Services, a partner of Mid Minnesota Federal Credit Union's in providing financial education for your financial well-being. There will be

tips on how to respond assertively to the pressures of phone and online con artists, and know where and how to report fraud. This information is essential for older adults and their loved ones, but valuable for all ages. There is no cost to join the Zoom meeting, but pre-registration is required.

Region Five holding volunteer driver forums

A free series of virtual forums, Minnesota's Road to Volunteer Drivers, begins this month to share information and support for volunteer drivers in Minnesota. Volunteer drivers are a critical resource in meeting the transportation needs of many Minnesotans without other practical options.

This virtual forum series is convened and sponsored by the Minnesota Council on Transportation Access in partnership with the Minnesota Volunteer Driver Coalition and will bring together volunteer driver program administrators, volunteer drivers, riders, funders, transportation policy advocates and transportation stakeholders.

All Minnesota's Road to Volunteer Drivers' forums are offered at no cost via Zoom. Registration is required and you need to only register once to attend all the forums.

Detailed information on each session will also be posted several weeks in prior to the forum.

- Nov. 18, 2020: Current State and a Look into the Future of Volunteer Drivers
- Dec. 9, 2020: Policy Issues and Real Life Stories
- Jan. 20, 2021: Volunteer Driver Recruitment and Promotion
- Feb. 17, 2021: How to Start a Volunteer Driver Program
- March 17, 2021: Person-centered Practices & Disability Etiquette for Volunteer Drivers and Cultural Diversity & Equity Training
- April 21, 2021: Trauma-informed Care Training and Providing Community Education About People Who Are Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- May 19, 2021: Best Practices for Volunteer Driver Programs — Safety, Security, Crisis, Medical, Passenger, Resiliency & Boundary Issues

The forums include closed captioning, ASL interpretation, and will be recorded for future access.

Region Five Development Commission is the facilitator for the Regional Transportation Coordinating Council in Region 5, working in partnership with MCOTA. If you have questions or need a place to access the internet to participate in this training, contact Matt Kallroos at 763-486-8637 or mkallroos@regionfive.org. Questions about this virtual form can also be directed to Arlene Mathison at (612) 624-3646 or mathi032@umn.edu.

Staples-Motley school board work session; Truth in Taxation

The Staples-Motley School Board will hold a work session Monday, Dec. 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the District Office, 905 4th St. NE, Staples. This includes the Truth in Taxation Levy and Budget.

Also on the agenda will be the results of the Community Survey by Morris Leatherman Company and facilities update by ICS Consulting.

Upcoming dates and meetings include:

Mon., Dec. 21: Regular Board meeting, 6 p.m. District Office

Fri., Dec. 25: Christmas break; school offices closed

Mon., Jan. 4, 2021: School resumes. School Board Organizational meeting, 6 p.m. District Office. Elect Officers; set the 2021 board meeting schedule, etc.

Inside the Outdoors



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Community Christmas Music Release

Digital recordings featuring choral music by choirs, chorus and local artists available free to listen to. Playlist includes about 2 dozen pieces, featuring past Community Christmas Concerts and more. Access the link through the Staples Area Men's Chorus website or find it on their YouTube channel.

www.staplesmen.org

Listen any time, free.
Play the audio throughout your holiday season.

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Mainstream Voucher Program

--Todd County HRA--

The Mainstream Voucher Program provides rental assistance for non-elderly (18-61), low-income families with at least one disabled family member. The program also encourages partnerships with health and human service agencies to coordinate voluntary services and supports to enable individuals to live independently in the community. Rental assistance is based on 40 percent (%) of your income or lower.

The waiting list for this program is currently open and there are available vouchers that can be issued on a first come first served basis if you meet the below eligibility requirements. All applications received after the vouchers have been filled will then be kept on the waiting list for the next available voucher.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Must meet Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program eligibility requirements.
- Families that include at least one person with a disability between the ages of 18-61
- Applicants must be registered on the HCV waiting list.

Call 320-594-6388 to request an application be mailed to you or contact the Todd County HRA at toddcountyhra@yahoo.com to have one emailed or postal mailed out to you; or you can pick one up from the bulletin board in the entry way at:
300 Linden Ave S, Browerville MN.

If you or anyone in your family is a person with disabilities and you require a specific accommodation in order to fully utilize our program's services, please use the above information to contact us.

w48-49c



Obituaries

Thelma Edin

Thelma Ann Edin, 86, of Cushing and formerly of Staples passed away November 20, 2020 under the loving and gentle care of A Daughter's Love Care Home and St. Croix Hospice. A Celebration of Life memorial was held Nov. 28 at the Lincoln Evangelical Free Church in Lincoln with Pastor Donald Reigstad officiating and Pastor Dan Crocker singing.

Thelma was born June 26, 1934, in Wadena to Louis and Ella Odland. She graduated from Wadena High School and earned a degree from Ancker Hospital School in St. Paul as a Registered Nurse. Thelma married Kenneth James Edin on May 12, 1956, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wadena. They worked for a year in the Twin Cities before moving to the farm in Thomastown Township. Thelma worked many years at the Staples hospital which became Lakewood Health System and several years at the Bertha Hospital. She especially liked delivering babies and seemed to be able to remember every baby she helped deliver.

Thelma was very good at cooking, canning and sewing more out of necessity than pleasure. Saturday became doughnut and cinnamon roll day at Grandma's house and few grandchildren ever missed it. She took up decorating cakes and used her talents to decorate cookies as well. She made goodie baskets for widowed people and Ken delivered them all over. She enjoyed Bible Study



Fellowship (BSF) where she led several Bible studies and helped with events at church. Her true joy was her grandchildren and later great-grandchildren. She knew each one and had a way to make them feel special. Thelma's ability to calm little ones was a special talent.

Thelma is survived by four sons, Michael (Bonny) of Angle Inlet, Marcus (Kim) of Staples, Randal (Sheila) of Staples, Thomas (Tina) of Staples; three daughters, Michele (Maurice) Zwack of Casselton, ND, Renee (Dan) Harding of Kilgore, TX and Jan Fitzer of Excelsior; 24 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Thelma was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth; parents; one son, Ronald Douglas; sister and brother-in-law, Rachel (Al) Hamm; one brother Nels and four grandchildren.

Arrangements by the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Wadena (www.SchullerFamilyFH.com).

w49c A00006B2020DC02

Wesley Johnson

Wesley E. Johnson, 89, of Motley, stepped into the presence of Jesus and eternal glory November 25, 2020.

Funeral services were held Nov. 29 at Lincoln Evangelical Free Church with Reverend Don Reigstad officiating.

Burial will be in the spring in Crystal.

Wesley Earl Johnson was born to Evelyn (Ekgren) and Earl Johnson, in Minneapolis on June 21, 1931. He grew up in the northwest suburbs of Minneapolis and throughout his teen years, pursued interests in boxing, fishing, music and worked at a local National Tea Food Store. He attended Robbinsdale High School, graduating with the class of 1949. He then attended the University of Minnesota, first planning to pursue a Pre-Medicine degree. He transferred to Northwestern College, located then in Minneapolis, graduating with his degree in Bible in 1954, having been called to serve Jesus. He had accepted Jesus as his Savior in college and served as a Minister of the Gospel since the 1950's.

He was united in marriage to Carol Sandberg on June 28, 1952 in Minneapolis. He and Carol moved to Chicago as he started seminary at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Their son, Larry was born, in 1956. Wes received his Masters of Divinity degree in 1957. From 1956-1959 Wes was Youth Pastor at First Evangelical Free Church of Chicago. Their son, Rick, was born in Chicago in 1959. From 1959-1963 Wes served as pastor of Calvary Evangelical Free Church in Rochester. From 1963-1968 Wes served as pastor of Thief River Falls Evangelical Free Church. In 1967, while there, their daughter Tammy was born. From 1968-1977 the family lived in Valparaiso, Indiana as Wes served as pastor of Liberty Bible Church of Chesterton. In 1977 Wes was called to be the Superintendent of the Great Lakes District of the Evangelical Free Church of America. In 1985 he received his Doctorate of Ministry degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He served as District Superintendent until 1995, moving



to Crystal Lake, IL and later back to Porter, IN. In 1995, he took the position of Assistant to the President of the Evangelical Free Church of America, and moved to Apple Valley. In 2006 he and Carol fully retired, moving to Motley and being involved at Lincoln Evangelical Free Church of Cushing.

Throughout his adult years, he still loved music, reading, travel, woodworking, painting but most of all his Savior and family and friends brought him greatest joy. He authored two books, "The Right Pastor" and "Pathways and Ponderings".

In early 2020, with declining health, Wes moved to the Lakewood Care Center, Staples and was lovingly cared for there through his last day.

He is survived by Carol, his wife of 68 years; two sons, Larry (Lois) Johnson of Motley and Rick (Jan) Johnson of Kalispell, MT; one daughter, Tammy (Brian Teyema) VanDixhorn of Ingleside, IL; one sister, Marie (Vic) Hauck of Ramsey; nine grandchildren, Lisa (Charlie) Anderson and Kimberly (Charlie) Carlson, Sarah Johnson and Rachel Johnson, Katie VanDixhorn, Matthew VanDixhorn, Alison (Gerrit Immink) VanDixhorn, Ashley (Jay) Williams and Whitney VanDixhorn; 13 great-grandchildren, Dayton, Camden, Ashton, Waylen and Hazel Anderson, Eli and Owen Carlson, Maia, Noah and Judah Johnson Mendoza, Asher Dahmm and Sage and Scout Williams.

Arrangements by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples, www.brenny.com.

w49c A00006B2020DC02

Melvin Nefstead

Melvin John Nefstead, Jr., 82, of Baxter, transitioned to his heavenly home November 18, 2020, following a brief hospitalization at Lakewood Health System to treat complications of COVID-19 and Parkinson's Disease.

A private family memorial service was held (via Zoom), with plans for a Celebration of Mel's Life service to be held spring/summer of 2021.

Mel was born on April 20, 1938 to Agnes (Garlie) Nefstead and Melvin Nefstead, Sr., in West Allis, Wisconsin. He attended school in West Allis, graduating from high school in 1955. Following graduation, he entered an apprenticeship as a Tool and Die Maker. He married Sonja (Nelson) Nefstead, on September 15, 1962 and they moved to Staples, where Mel had a long and robust career in vocational education - serving as teacher, shop instructor, Financial Aid Director, Special Needs Tutor and Tribal College liaison at the Staples Area Vocational Technical Institute (SAVTI), now Central Lakes College. While working at SAVTI, he earned a degree in vocational education from Bemidji State University.

Throughout his life, Mel (also known as Brotz) was consistently committed to being of service to others, which included involvement in community and civic organizations, the Lutheran Church, athletics, education and healthcare - and his life of service inspired many. Mel loved, and was loved, by his family; and for Mel, his "family" extended beyond notions of biological or nuclear family to include many others - including, particularly, former students and 'swimmers'.

Mel had a life-long "call to ministry" which he lived out in many ways - within and outside church organizations. Most significantly, he was active for decades at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples, where he served in such roles as Congregational President, Sunday School teacher and custodian. In his retirement, he became Lay Pastor for Swan Valley (Leader) and Maple Hill (Pine River) ELCA Lutheran Churches, and he contributed to Luther Seminary's program to support future leaders. In recent years, he was a member of Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Baxter, he participated in, and helped lead Bible studies and devotionals at Excelsior Place, Baxter/Brainerd. He was involved, for many years, in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Several years ago, he participated in mission trips to Haiti and Honduras. These experiences moved and inspired him: the realities of poverty and he sought ways to address hunger. He was, in addition, inspired by the faithfulness, joy and love in the people he met in the communities that he travelled to serve.

Mel was involved in a range of community and civic organizations. He



was honored to serve for 28 years as the Board Chair of Staples Lakewood Hospital Board; he served, for a time, as Executive Director of the Staples/Motley Chamber of Commerce; he loved singing with the Staples Area Men's Chorus and in the choir of Faith Lutheran Church in Staples and he was an active member of the Jaycees and Rotary International. In recent years, he volunteered with hospice and during this time, he also began to prepare, intentionally and faithfully, for his own dying process. Mel also served in other local, regional and statewide committees and board positions focused on healthcare, safety and education.

Mel delighted in athletics and in various positions as coach, including men's basketball at the Staples AVTI, a community softball program in Staples, Assistant Athletic Director at Staples High School and as a manager of the summer swim program at the University of Nebraska. One of his greatest joys was being head coach for the Staples Motley High School Swim Team. He was proud of ALL swimmers and he felt a particular joy in coaching four Minnesota State Swimming champions. Mel also proclaimed himself as one of the most dedicated Green Bay Packer fans in all of Minnesota. Later in life, he spent birthdays biking his age in miles - a memorable celebration was biking 75 miles on his 75th birthday.

Mel is survived by his wife of 58 years, "the love of his life", Sonja; two daughters, Darcey (Phil) Larsen and Kari (Scott) Christiansen; one son, Eric (David Priest) Nefstead; one sister, Bev (Bruce) Nelsen; sister-in-law, Pat (Ronnie) Nefstead; five grandchildren, Matthew, Andrew and John Larsen, Annika and Erika Christiansen; sister-in-law, Lola (Samuel) Grafstrom; brother-in-law, David (Brenda) Nelson; 14 nieces and nephews, Lee, Leslie, Robyn, Dean, Jerel, Matthew, Karl, Sarah, Brita, Sven, Nels, Solveig, Seth and Sara and their families.

He was preceded in death by his many Norwegian ancestors; his parents; one infant daughter; one brother, Ronald; in-laws, Henry and Svea (Karlsson) Nelson; and his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For Mel, it was Jesus' life, death and resurrection that inspired his loving and his living and ultimately guided him as he faced his advancing age, illness and death with faith, hope, honesty and love.

w49c A00006B2020DC02

Gordon Sampson

Gordon Sampson, 84, of Motley passed away peacefully November 26, 2020 at Sanford Hospital, Fargo.

w49c A00006B2020DC02

Bazil Wales

Bazil George Wales, 73, of Staples passed away November 23, 2020, at The Emeralds Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Grand Rapids.

Services were held Nov. 28 at the Staples Church of Christ.

Interment was at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples. Bazil was born July 28, 1947 to Ruth Miller and Walter Wales. He worked numerous jobs including truck driving and selling Christmas trees. His hobbies included hunting, fishing, doing word search and puzzles.

He is survived by his wife, Rose (Verbeck) Wales of Staples; one brother, John (Barb) Wales of Park Rapids; one sister, Bert (Mike) Campbell of the Twin Cities; numerous nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews and special friend, Cal.

A special thank you to the nurses at The Emeralds in Grand Rapids.

Arrangements were by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w49c A00006B2020DC02

Angeline Gillson

Angeline (Angie) Gillson, 70, of Pillager, passed away at her home November 24, 2020.

Services were held Dec. 1 at Casino Assembly of God Church.

Interment was at Wildwood Cemetery, Pillager.

Angie was born February 3, 1950 to the J. Wesley and Joyce Carlson in Brainerd. She grew up in the Pillager area and graduated from Pillager High School in 1968. She was united in marriage to Robert (Bob) Gillson on September 6, 1969. Angie lived all of her years in Pillager except for four years when the family lived in Oregon. There she volunteered at Faith Christian School where her daughters attended. From the mid-80's until Angie's retirement in 2016, she was employed as a Personal Care Attendant at Kingwood Good Samaritan Home, Bethany Good Samaritan Home, Brainerd, and the Brainerd State Hospital until its closure in 2003. From 2003 to her retirement in 2016 she worked at a group home for developmentally disabled adults near Staples.

Angie was a member of Casino Assembly of God Church. For several years she volunteered in children's ministries as a preschool Children's Church teacher, as well as a substitute Sunday School teacher. In addition, Angie taught weekly release-time classes for Pillager Elementary students and organized and led a weekly Bible study at Riverside Assisted Living in Pillager. Angie had a servant's heart and loved the Lord, her church and spending time in Bible reading and prayer. She cherished her daughters and grandchildren, whether spending time with two of her daughters and grandson in



Pillager or her oldest daughter and family in Columbia, MD. She enjoyed many visits with her siblings and families, other relatives and friends. Also dear to her heart was her cat Muffin, who adored only Angie.

Angie will be greatly missed by three daughters, Rebecca (Roger) Windschitl of Columbia, MD, Shelly and Amy Sofie, both of Pillager; four grandchildren, Robert, Rylan and Regan Windschitl and Kyler Sofie; three sisters, Shirley Hynes of Little Falls, Marian (Dan) Gage of Lynden, WA and LaVonne (Brad) VanVickle of Pillager; two brothers, John (Kari) Carlson of Rapid City, SD and Steven (Jessica) Carlson of Buffalo; brothers-in-law Calvin Gillson of Motley, Donald (Sher) Gillson of Pillager, Jerry (TJ) Gillson of Halsey, OR; sisters-in-law Barbara Mares and Arlene (Marlon) Johnson, both of Staples, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband in 2009 after 40 years of marriage; parents; mother-in-law and father-in-law; brother-in-law John Hynes and sister-in-law Carol Houston.

Arrangements by Halvorsen-Taylor Funeral Home, www.halvorsontaylor.com.

w49c A00006B2020DC02

Obituaries continued on page 9a

Student Achievements



TORII NIENOW, Staples-Motley High School senior, was honored as a recipient of a \$2,000 scholarship from the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) at its recent annual meeting. Torii is the daughter of Adam and Lori Nienow who live in Scandia Valley Township, Morrison County.

Torii is involved in 4-H activities, music, speech, Knowledge Bowl, Special Olympics volunteer and local library volunteer. She plans to become a researcher in Biochemistry.

David Hann, MAT Executive Director said, "It is a privilege for the Minnesota Association of Townships to assist Torii by awarding this scholarship. Our state and nation face many challenges and we need young leaders like Torii to be prepared to take them on. We wish her great success in pursuit of her educational goals and in the future."

The MAT scholarship is awarded to five students each year. This year students wrote an essay on the subject of "Township Day," the theme of the Minnesota Association of Township's 2020 Annual Conference. The essays needed to show a student's knowledge and understanding of township government. This year's winning essays appear on the MAT website, www.mntownships.org.

Hello World

BIRTHS REPORTED AT LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITAL IN STAPLES INCLUDED:

Born to Amanda and Eric Travers of Brainerd, a baby boy, Levi Curtis weighing eight pounds, nine ounces on November 18, 2020.

Born to Kayla and Sam Bloom of Little Falls, a baby girl, Emily Joan weighing six pounds, 10 ounces on November 19, 2020.

Born to Ashlyn Peet of Motley a baby boy, Kamden James, weighing eight pounds, six ounces on Novemb 20, 2020.

Born to Dana and Luke Pietron of Randall a baby girl, Mavryn Valeria, weighing five pounds, eight ounces on November 20, 2020.

Born to Madison Abraham and David Erickson of Pequot Lakes a baby boy, Benjamin Andrew weighing seven pounds, 10 ounces on November 20, 2020.

Born to Nitasha and Cody Karst of Brainerd a baby boy, Josiah Shane, weighing seven pounds, five ounces on November 21, 2020.

Born to Sara and Jon Stainbrook of Baxter a baby girl, Emilia Anne, weighing nine pounds, four ounces on November 24, 2020.

Born to Rachel and Josh Peterson of Wadena a baby boy, Theodore Jude, weighing four pounds, two ounces on Noebmer 25, 2020.

Born to Jordy and Milan Sistad of Brainerd a baby girl, Emma Rose, weighing seven pounds, 14 ounces on November 26, 2020.

Born to Kirstin and Josh Noska of Browerville a baby girl, Kimber Dolores, weighing seven pounds on November 26, 2020.



Volleyball season ends abruptly, but Cardinals set school records and earn winning record



Top defender

Heidi Lombard makes one of her school record digs during a game this season. Despite a shortened season, Lombard finished with 963 career digs, the most on record for Staples-Motley volleyball players.



Spike leader

Tabetha Allen rises up for a spike in a game this season. She ended her career with a school record 784 kills, and was on pace to reach 1,000 if there had been a complete season.

The Staples-Motley volleyball team finished with an overall record of 5-3 and 3-2 in the Mid State Conference.

The team's last few games were postponed due to COVID-19 protocol, and the season was then ended with the state mandate of no youth sports for four weeks.

"We all knew going into this season that it was going to look and feel different in many ways," said Coach Gretchen Bestland, "from no fans to having a limited amount of fans, from getting to play 80 percent of our regular season games to having one game get postponed due to a snowstorm and two cancelled due to COVID."

"Even though it felt like a rollercoaster ride, this group of girls from C, JV and Varsity were able to adapt to everything that came their way. We tried our best as a team to be grateful for everything that we got to do, but it was still a hard reality that what these girls had been working towards was done in a split second."

Section 8AA volleyball was planning to have a playoff of the top four teams in each subsection, and Staples-Motley was ranked number three when the season ended, depriving them of a chance to make a run in the playoffs. The Cardinals were scheduled to play Perham in the first round.

"One of our three losses was from Pequot Lakes, who was a state qualifier last season. We were excited for the chance to play Perham with the possibility if we won to have a rematch against #1 seeded Pequot Lakes," said Bestland.

With a promising season ended abruptly, Bestland looked back at what the team was able to accomplish in a short time.

"We had a great group of five seniors that will be missed. This team was fun to watch and I just wish that more people would have gotten the chance to see them play. We are continuing to build from a 16-11 season in 2019. We will have a number of returning varsity players next season and our JV and C teams were playing well and ended with a 7-1 and 5-1 record, respectfully," said Bestland.

Among the seniors, Heidi Lombard was the starting libero for the past three seasons and ended just shy of 1,000 career digs with 963, which is a school record despite only having eight games this season.

Tabetha Allen has been the starting outside and middle hitter for the past four years. She ended with 784 kills, a school record, and was on pace to reach 1,000 if there had been a complete season.

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
firstcongaucstaples@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 Smee
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship 10:05 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2296
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 10:45 a.m.
Sabbath School 9:30 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 Smee
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.

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

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

First Baptist
903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Jake Anderson
218-746-3768
curious@fbcpillager.com
Worship Gathering 10:00 a.m.
Connection Point 9:30 a.m.

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

Hewitt

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

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
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley
Heath Belknap, Pastor of Student Ministries
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes 11-11:45 a.m.

Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self 218-371-7189
Children's 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.
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

Why is Gratitude so Freeing and Life-giving?

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

Likely, I've written about this before. It is a life-giving question from Scripture. I need to hear it again and again in my own life's story. The apostle Paul asks in I Corinthians 4:7: "What is it that you have than you have not received?" Think about that for awhile. It really goes against some segments of culture that would have us brag for what we have accomplished, as though we do it all on our own.

Oh, there is a place to recognize people by honoring what they have done; the apostle Paul says as much in I Corinthians 12:26b.

But, it is always important for us to remember the big picture from Whom all things come. God created us. God grows us. God sustains us. God loves us. God holds all things together (Colossians 1:17). That changes everything including our perceptions of life and who we are and who we are not.

I so appreciate whoever came up with the visual imagery of living life with open hands (in contrast to

clinging, grabbing hands). This is a grateful life that sees living as a privilege and responsibility in contrast to a right and a demand. It sees every day as the gift from God that it is. We can then see others as the gift from God that they are, too.

Let's look at another angle of gratitude. Even though it is important to give with no strings attached, a "thank you" is so completing to the whole process of giving and receiving. [Ideally, we do all things for God]. Be thankful soon and continually. I don't need to be thanked when I do something for someone, but gratitude completes it in life-giving ways. You may not need my than you, but I need to share it in appreciation... ultimately to God. Oh, to hear again Psalm 24:1 that "the earth is the Lord's and all that is in; the world, and all who live in it."

As someone once said, let's all live "the gratitude attitude!"

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Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Oct. 20, 2020

Call to Order

The Todd County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Board Room in the City of Long Prairie, MN on the 20th day of October, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kircher. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Becker and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Erickson, the following motions and resolution were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2020 as presented.

To accept the resignation of Dennis Lyon, Equipment Operator effective 11/30/2020.

To approve the retirement of Dawn Kreidler, Eligibility Worker effective 11/30/2020.

GAMBLING PERMIT – IVY'S LEGACY FOUNDATION, INC.

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners are establishing their approval for a Gambling Permit for the Ivy's Legacy Foundation, Inc. through this resolution;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners approve a Gambling Permit for the Ivy's Legacy Foundation, Inc. to hold a raffle event at the Howard and Katherine Marthaler property in Kandota Township at the address 10098 County 11, Sauk Centre, MN on January 16, 2021.

To approve a 1-Day Temporary On Sale Liquor License for the Ivy's Legacy Foundation, Inc. for January 16, 2021 at 10098 County 11, Sauk Centre, MN.

To approve an On Sale, Off Sale and Sunday Liquor License for Thunder Lodge, Inc at the address of 22056 US 71, Long Prairie, MN in Long Prairie Township effective December 1, 2020

through March 31, 2021.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 400857 through 400892 in the amount of \$41,516.39 and (Regular) 54008 through 54062 in the amount of \$127,148.37 for a total of \$168,664.76.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 801056 through 801126 and (Regular) 707149 through 707208 for a total amount of \$68,579.74.

On motion by Becker and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 600271 through 600282 and (Regular) 516019 through 516046 for a total amount of \$94,146.58.

Public Works

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To purchase a used John Deere 670G motor grader for FY 2021 per the attached quote.

Information regarding the 2021 CSAH 11 Bridge Project Funding Award was provided to the Commissioners.

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

FINAL PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION - 2020 GRAVEL SURFACING CONTRACT

WHEREAS, the contract with Sanders Construction, Inc. for a 2020 Gravel Surfacing Contract known as CP 20:89, CP 20:107 and CP 77-20-05 located in various locations in Todd County in all things been completed, and;

WHEREAS, construction work on this contract was scheduled and completed in 2020 with the value of the total work certified being \$191,962.66, and;

WHEREAS, partial payments amounting to \$146,564.31 have been previously made to the con-

tractor as work progressed, and;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that \$45,398.35 still remains to be paid to Sanders Construction, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does here accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Todd and authorizes final payment as specified.

Planning & Zoning

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To grant the rezoning of parcel 22-0000300 from Commercial to R-2 zoning with no conditions.

County Fee Schedule - Public Hearing

A public hearing was held to gather any public input on the proposed 2021 County Fee Schedule.

Solid Waste

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the bid from Farm-Rite Equipment for the purchase of a bobcat in the amount of \$20,098.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To purchase a snow pusher from Zeigler for the pay loader in the amount of \$9,165.

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To authorize signature of the Third Amendment to the PLMSWA Finance Agreement.

Discussion on when to set an All-Board Biannual Solid Waste Meeting was held and will be continued at a future meeting.

Todd County Solid Waste Designation Ordinance – 1st Reading

A public hearing was held for the 1st Reading of the proposed Todd County Solid Waste Designation Ordinance and to gather public input on the proposed Ordinance.

Todd County Tobacco Sales and Access Ordinance - 1st Reading

A public hearing was held for the 1st Reading of the proposed Todd County Tobacco Sales and Access Ordinance and to gather public input on the proposed Ordinance.

Health & Human Services

Jackie Och, HHS Director presented an update on the COVID-19 Situation for discussion.

Administration

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve CARES Act funds for improved telework capabilities for remote workers.

A progress report was provided by the County

Coordinator regarding the CARES Act Funds projects for the County Board's review and discussion.

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To accept Addendum #3 from Arnzen Construction.

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To extend the second round grant program for Small Business and Non-Profits through November 13, 2020.

Commissioner's Report

The Commissioner's reported on meetings attended.

Adjourn

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Neumann, the meeting was adjourned for the month of October 2020.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS	
Vendor Name	\$ Amount
BENNING PRINTING & PUBLISHING	\$5,096.64
BIG STONE THERAPIES, INC.	3,693.26
CENTRAL APPLICATORS INC.	3,581.44
CONTECH ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS, LLC	19,215.88
FRIEDRICH'S TIRE & OIL CO	4,287.00
LITTLE FALLS MACHINE INC.	7,072.15
RANGE	2,363.35
ROYAL TIRE	2,651.24
RTVISION INC	2,482.51
STAPLES WORLD	3,096.56
STREICHER'S	8,193.98
TODD SOIL & WATER CONS DIST	77,958.00
WORMS LUMBER & READY-MIX INC.	3,014.92
78 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	25,957.83
Total	\$168,664.76

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	
Vendor Name	\$ Amount
#16413	\$2,236.80
#15998	3,023.70
#14593	3,742.80
GERARD TREATMENT PROG-DIAG/ASSESS	9,504.60
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERV. OF MN-ST PAUL	2,676.00
#10746	4,010.10
NEW HORIZON ACADEMY 75	2,284.00
NEXUS - MILLE LACS FAMILY HEALING	11,697.50
NORTHERN PINES MENTAL HLTH CTR INC.	16,948.48
#16183	2,541.60
STEP	5,999.56
VILLAGE RANCH INC	6,561.10
PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	22,920.34
Total	\$94,146.58

Vendor Name		\$ Amount
RURAL MN CEP INC		\$13,615.95
130 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000		54,963.79
Total		68,579.74

Witness my hand and seal:

David Kircher,
County Board Chairperson

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
49pnc

Obituaries

Violet Jessen



Violet "Vi" Jessen, 98, passed away October 17, 2020, at Lakewood Health System in Staples.

Funeral services were held Nov. 5 at the Verndale Alliance Church with Pastor Tony Stanley and Pastor Daryl Jacobson officiating.

She was laid to rest at Hauge's Cemetery in Jackson.

Violet Dorothy Adeline Zahorsky was born February 25, 1922 in Lakefield to John and Barbara (Kadorbeck) Zahorsky. She graduated from the Lakefield High School with the class of 1939.

Vi married Alfred Sidney Jessen on Dec. 2, 1939 at Hauge Parsonage in Jackson. They resided and farmed in Burgen, a small town in the Windom area. Vi owned and operated a café in Storden in the 1950s. In 1957 the Jessen family made their home in Verndale. Alfred was employed as a livestock dealer and Vi raised her children along with working at G&L Drive-In. Alfred passed away Nov. 25, 1989.

While in Verndale, Vi volunteered at the Red Cross Blood Drive and was a prominent member of her community. She was the President of Church Rallies, a Sunday School and Bible class teacher, President of the Garden Club and President of Ladies Aid.

Violet enjoyed flower gardening, quilting, crafts, baking and sharing her apple turnovers and muffins with family and friends.

Violet is survived by three children, Larry

(Sharon) Jessen, Judith (Charles) Rieck and Kerry (Kerry) Jessen; 10 grandchildren, Paula (David) Knappek, Trina (Dean) Schultz, Melissa Kaye Rieck, Brent Rieck, Christopher, Chase, Zachary, Ethan, Rodney and Katelyn; seven great-grandchildren, Josh, Isabelle, Jaemon, Connor, Ella, Autumn and Emma; one sister, Marian Ann Werner; many nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Preceding Violet in death was her husband; parents; two daughters, Judith Rae and Betty Lou; six siblings, Arthur Zahorsky, Theodore Zahorsky, Philemon Kuhn, Rose Biethner, Alice Kruger and Esther Poth and one great-grandchild, Xander Schmidt-Jessen.

Music was provided by Joe Hinkle and Jerry Barrett. Pallbearers were Brent Rieck, Josh Schultz, Daniel Fisher, Dan Fisher, Melissa Rieck and Bob Freeman.

Arrangements provided by Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Service of Wadena, www.karvonenfuneral-home.com.

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Pauline Page



Pauline Weishalla Page, 99, of Staples, passed away peacefully November 23, 2020, at Lakewood Care Center, Staples.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Nov. 28 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Staples.

Interment was at Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.

Pauline was born November 8, 1921 to Robert and Julia (Rawers) Weishalla. She married George Allyn Page on November 3, 1941. In 1949, they moved to Warroad to open a restaurant. When George passed away in 1963, Pauline stayed on to operate the restaurant. She owned and operated the restaurant for over 35 years, until the 1980s when she moved back to the Staples area. Pauline loved to cook and enjoyed time with her family. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by one daughter, Diane (Walter) Hreno and one son, George Page; three grandchildren, Debbie (John) Hanson, David (Kristin) Hreno, Patti (John) Farmakes; six

great-grandchildren Jack, Luke, Madison, Carter, David and Kyle; sister-in-law Mabel Page; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband; three brothers, Robert, John and Leo Weishalla and seven sisters, Anna, Gertrude, Barbara, Edith, Lillian, Leona and Lucille.

Memorials may be sent to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Staples or Lakewood Care Center, Staples.

Arrangements were by Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

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Terry Walther



Terry M. Walther, 71, of Becker passed away November 20, 2020, at his home.

Memorial services were held Nov. 27 at Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Becker with Rev. Jim Johnson officiating.

Terry was born October 14, 1949 in St. Louis, MO to George and Helen (Feydt) Walther. He grew up and lived in Mountain View, MO, Summit, NJ, and Rolla, MO. He graduated in 1967 from Webster Grove High School in Missouri. Terry was united in marriage to Kathy Campbell on July 19, 1981 in Mountain View. They later divorced. He moved to Becker in 1993 and worked as a Processor Engineer for Steinwall Inc. in Coon Rapids from 1993 to 2019. Terry enjoyed watching the St. Louis Cardinals, taking road trips to Orlando with his family, going to the casino, gardening vegetables and spending time with his grandchildren. He was a generous man who always cared for others. Most importantly, he loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by two daughters, Ida Lombard

(Kyle Frisk) of Staples and Carol Lee of Mountain View, MO; two brothers, Lee Walther of Jefferson City, MO and George (Liz) Walther of Florida; six grandchildren, Joshua Lombard of Becker, Heidi Lombard of Staples, Autumn Smith of Staples and Josiah Sungazer, Silas Cambell and Maxx Lee all of Mountain View, MO and one great-granddaughter, Daisy Lee.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Arrangements were by Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, www.williamsdingmann.com.

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Public Notices

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME:
A Room at a Time
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:
28508 County 89
Browerville, MN 56438
United States
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
Jean Marie May
Address:
28508 County 89
Browerville, MN 56438
United States

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY:
Jean Marie May

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
jeanmay18@icloud.com

DATE FILED:
November 9, 2020

48-49pnp

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Kim Lind is Lakewood Health System's 2020 Team Member of the Year

Kim Lind, RN, BSN, PHN, CEN, CPEN, was named the 2020 Team Member of the Year at Lakewood Health System in Staples. The Team Member of the Year is chosen based on votes from Lakewood's administrative team and the Lakewood Board. All nominees have received a STAR award during the voting year.



Kim Lind

Lind was nominated by Lakewood's Hospice team for the above-and-beyond care she provided a patient. "A hospice patient expressed desire to have IV fluids at home rather than in the clinic. Our team was having difficulty establishing the IV, so we reached out to Kim, who had just gotten off the night shift in the emergency department. She happily came to assist, and along with her impressive IV skills, she also managed to set the patient at ease and make him laugh," the Lakewood Hospice team said. "Her kindness, humor and skills were greatly appreciated, and we can't thank her

enough for making patient comfort and care her top priority."

Lind has worked at Lakewood since 1996. Her role includes providing direct patient care as a registered nurse in the emergency department and hospital inpatient. She taught Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) for many years and is a long-time member of the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA).



Family support for future Bison

Beck Erholtz signed a letter of intent to play golf for North Dakota State University on Nov. 11. Pictured with him at the signing ceremony at the Staples-Motley

gymnasium, from left, his parents, Duff and Heather, and sister Bo. His brother Finn was watching the signing online. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Staples to receive electric cost refund

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

At the Nov. 24 Staples City Council meeting, Public Works Director Scott Grabe announced the city is scheduled to receive a \$125,000 refund from Missouri River Energy, the company that supplies most of the electric power to the city.

Grabe said electric costs are down substantially this year because of reduced demand, much of it due to

the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grabe also said the city has been lenient on shutting off services to residents during the pandemic, but that has created problems and they will start to be "more aggressive with shut-offs, even during the cold weather," said Grabe.

The council also approved electric and water rates for 2021. There will be no increase in electric rates and water rates will only go up by 25 cents per month on the base cost.

In other news, the council

- Approved certifying unpaid utility charges on seven parcels in the Todd County portion of the city. Charges ranged from \$108 to \$1,105.

- Approved writing off four uncollectable utility bills and one invoice from a police case.

- Approved franchise agreement renewal with Charter Communications



Beck's online fans

Fifteen friends watched online as Beck Erholtz signed to play golf with North Dakota State University. The signing ceremony was pared down to a few people in the gym and others watching online.

Erholtz signs with NDSU

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Beck Erholtz didn't consider very many schools when looking for a college to play golf.

He just looked at the great career former Staples-Motley golfer Andrew Israelson recently completed at North Dakota State University.

"Andrew has been a lifelong friend, it became a goal of mine to play there," he said.

Erholtz said he was concerned there wouldn't be enough roster spots, but he contacted the NDSU coaches and within a short time they offered him a spot on the team.

"It all worked out," he said.

Erholtz has visited the indoor golf facility at NDSU and was impressed with how he can play all winter on simulators and the short game shack in an upstairs room.

The college golf season is held both in the fall and in the spring, so playing through the winter is essential to keep up with Division I athletes in southern states.

Erholtz finished 14th at the Minnesota State Golf Tournament his freshman season, was 27th as a sophomore, and was denied a junior season because of COVID-19. After doing well in tournaments this summer, he is considered one of the top ranked high school golfers in the state.



Snowmobile

Safety

Beware of power poles and the wires that hold them in place

SHARE THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION with family, friends and anyone you know who rides a snowmobile.

SNOWMOBILING underneath power lines can be dangerous. Keep these tips in mind this winter.

- Watch out for power poles and electrical equipment that can be hidden in the snow.
- Slow down, know the area and stay on marked trails.
- Power poles are often anchored with wires extending out from the pole. Avoid snowmobiling directly next to or underneath power lines.
- If you see a downed power line, stay away from it and call 911 to report it. Always assume it is live and can carry currents strong enough to kill.

COVID-19 numbers near peak, but slow slightly

The record high numbers of COVID-19 cases recorded two weeks ago were down slightly this past week.

Todd County recorded 198 new cases in the week of Nov. 23-29, after recording 209 the previous week. Wadena County had 131 new cases, 20 fewer than the previous week.

Morrison County had the biggest drop, going from 691 cases to 241. There were 11 COVID-19 deaths reported in the county during that two week period. The other area counties did not see a similar rise in deaths, with Todd and Wadena seeing zero new deaths and Cass showed two in the same two weeks. Minnesota has been aver-

aging nearly 50 COVID-19 deaths per day for the last two weeks.

Cases by zip code were released Nov. 27, the day after Thanksgiving. Staples had 35 new cases, much lower than the 56 recorded the previous week. Motley had 31 new cases, nine fewer than the week before.

Pillager saw a slight rise in cases, going from 40 to 42. Browerville also saw a slight rise, while Wadena and Long Prairie had fewer cases from the previous week.

The numbers are still close to records for each location, but tighter regulations may have lowered the rate of virus spread.

Lakewood is meeting COVID-19 surge head-on

Lakewood Health System news release

The COVID-19 surge we've been expecting is here. The number of positive cases in Minnesota and our local communities have been steadily increasing for the past several weeks and the surge peak isn't expected until early spring. Lakewood Health System, Staples, has been planning a response to this surge since early March, so we're ready to face this reality head-on.

Early on, Lakewood designated entrances and clinic space specifically for those needing to be seen in our Quick Care clinic for COVID-related symptoms or illness. We've expanded our clinic space and provider coverage over the past several months to accommodate the increasing number of people needing to be seen. Our drive-up COVID swabbing continues to be a welcome addition to our clinic services, as patients can schedule an appointment to be tested without leaving their vehicle. We've

purchased fish houses for our Staples and Browerville clinics which offer more comfort, safety and convenience for our staff who are conducting the swabbing.

With the increased number of COVID tests being done locally and across the state, the current wait time for results varies between three and seven days, depending on the testing facility. Those tested at Lakewood will receive a phone call if their test result is positive. If the result is negative, they will not receive a phone call, but rather, a MyHealth message, email or mailed letter.

Availability of staff continues to be our biggest concern right now. To help address this, we have implemented a labor pool through which some staff members can be utilized in areas of need throughout the organization. Though often tired, short-staffed and overwhelmed, our team has stepped up and shown their dedication, passion and care for our patients and residents and each other.

Our medical providers have been working to create a surge plan of their own. Once implemented, this will increase our provider coverage in areas such as the hospital and emergency department, so we're able to better care for the increasing number of patients needing to be seen or admitted. By distributing workloads and stresses amongst a larger group of providers, it allows them more downtime to avoid burnout.

As the Lakewood team continues to work hard to do our best for our patients, residents and communities, we ask that they do their best for us:

- Stay home whenever possible;
- When you do go out, wear a mask over your mouth and nose;
- Keep six feet or more between people.

These are simple things we can all do to help make a difference. Thank you for partnering with us as we continue to meet these challenges together.

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greatriverenergy.com

