



Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Staples World

Staples, Minnesota

\$1

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow... Over 14 inches of snow had fallen by early morning on Dec. 27, with reports of close to five more inches falling throughout the day and evening. Pictured above, Chad Longbella, owner of Longbella Drug in Staples, helps shovel a path along 2nd Ave. NE. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Weather

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 5	5°	-15	Cloudy
Jan. 6	-7	-22	M. Sunny
Jan. 7	-1	-5	M. Sunny
Jan. 8	22	-6	Cloudy
Jan. 9	0	-14	P. Sunny
Jan. 10	10	5	M. Sunny
Jan. 11	25	15	Sunny

Last Year, 2021

	High	Low	Cond.
Jan. 5	28°	8	M. Cloudy
Jan. 6	31	27	Cloudy
Jan. 7	20	16	Cloudy
Jan. 8	18	14	Cloudy
Jan. 9	24	9	Cloudy
Jan. 10	30	24	Cloudy
Jan. 11	29	25	M. Sunny

Average Temps:

H = 20° Low = 4°

Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

City of Staples
Public Hearing:
8A

Obituaries

Rudolf Bjerga, Sr.
Donabelle Denny
Leonard Miller
Mark Weishalla



Todd County increases pay

By Karin L. Nauber
Todd County correspondent

The new year will begin with another series of raises for employees and elected officials in Todd County.

At their regular meeting on December 21, the board went through the elected official salary requests and made the following approvals:

-County Attorney was asking for 2% and received 2.5% Current: \$120,514.00; 2022: \$123,526.85

-Auditor Treasurer was asking for 5% and received 2.5% Current: \$94,430.00; 2022: \$96,790.75

-Recorder was asking for 5% and was granted her request of 5% Current: \$70,570.00; 2022: \$74,098.50

-Sheriff was asking for 10% and was granted his request of 10% Current: \$101,714.00; 2022: \$111,885.40

-Commissioners: Current: \$32,579.00, no per

diems, board chair receives \$1800 supplemental pay, vice chair receives \$1200 supplemental pay. 2022: \$33,393.48, which equals 2.5%, supplemental pay remains the same for board chair and vice chair.

In other board business

• Due to a promotion, a social worker position existed within the Health and Human Services Health Services Unit (HHS).

The board approved the hire of applicant Alyssa Etzler to fill the position with a start day to be determined.

• HHS licenses establishments in Todd County to sell tobacco products. The following establishments were approved to sell tobacco products in 2022. Clarissa Municipal Liquor Store, Don and Dave's Store, The Hub Supper Club, Jon's Foods Inc, Eagle

See **COUNTY** on page 3a

Staples to pay more for needed services

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples City Council found out that there will be cost increases for city attorney services and for auditing services.

At the Dec. 28 council meeting, higher attorney fees were requested for the Todd County portion of the city, while attorney fees for the Wadena County portion of the city will remain the same. The city also had to find a new auditing company since the local firm Mayer, Porter and Nelson no longer does city audits. The lowest bid for the services was Carlson SV, a company headquartered in Golden Valley.

City Attorney Joe Krueger said he looked at city attorney rates in other cities similar to Staples and found that most city attorneys charge between \$175 and \$225 per hour. Kreuger said to get to the bottom of that range, proposed to raise his civil rate to \$150 per hour for 2022 and to \$175 per hour for the following year.

Krueger said he handled

over 100 prosecution cases for the city in 2021, with an average of about four hours per file, including 1.75 hours of staff time. In addition to prosecutions, Krueger said he worked on several ordinance changes for the city and worked on property issues regarding hospital property.

For the Wadena County portion of Staples, Attorney Kyra Ladd proposed a flat retainer of \$3,000 for 2022, and to prosecute misdemeanor check complaints at a rate of \$75 per hour. Ladd said that case filings were down a little in 2021, but she expects 2022 to be busier because they will be working on alleviating court backlogs.

The council approved both attorney proposals.

Audit fees

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen said he expected the bids for audit fees to be higher after Mayer, Porter and Nelson told the board they are no longer doing city audits. The lowest bid from Carlson SV was \$23,700 for 2021, \$24,600 for 2022 and \$25,500 for 2023.

Nelsen said they had

planned for the increase in the city budget. The council approved the audit contract

In other news, the council:

• Approved part time and seasonal wages, with raises for all employees in order to be competitive in the labor market.

• Approved 2022 fee schedule.

• Approved amendment stating that recreational vehicles or campers parked in the city can not be occupied for more than ten days in a calendar year. Also the campers can not be used as a business site.

• Approved paying off general obligation debt for 1996 street project.

• Approved appointing Ron Murray and Beth Gedde to the Staples Parks and Recreation Board.

• Approved labor agreement with labor unions IBEW Local #31 (linemen wastewater and administrative staff) and LELS Local #422 (law enforcement). The city is still negotiating with AFCME union.

• Approved City of Staples Personnel Policy.

2021: The year in review

Creating a new normal, COVID makes a comeback

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

In 2021, the local area tried to return to normal while still taking COVID-19 precautions. It became a year where a new normal was forged and the Staples World covered many of the changes in the community.

At the start of the year, meetings were held with people wearing masks. High school winter sports delayed their start until January, with basketball players required to wear masks while playing. Staples World reporter Dawn Timbs wrote a series of stories about how the previous year's state shutdowns affected local restaurants and bars, retail stores, fitness centers, financial services and churches. The Staples-Motley Area Community Foundation stepped up their grant program to supplement organizations and businesses that were impacted by COVID.

As the year went on, local customs started getting back to normal. The Staples Economic Development Authority (SEDA) noted a year of progress and new businesses opening despite the pandemic. The summer brought heat and drought. But COVID came back toward the end of the year with reports of hospital bed capacity overfilled because of a new COVID surge and reports of more deaths due to the virus. Events were cancelled and some meetings went back online.

Here are some of the top stories from 2021, the year of a new normal:

Jan. 13 - For the first time in 29 years, Chad Longbella stayed home from the Staples-Motley School Board meeting. "It was kind of strange for me to be sitting at home," said Longbella, who is stepping down after 29 years on the school board.

Jan. 13: Jeremy Reeck and Lisa Anderson take the oath of office as new school board members.

Jan. 20 - Maddi Johnson is the new Staples Area Chamber of Commerce Director

Jan. 27 - "Church bells sound like hope to me," said Robin (Thorn) Kramer, who's been ringing the brass bell at Motley United Methodist Church religiously for the past few months, since in-person worship closed for several weeks during the Covid-19 surge.

Feb. 3: The Staples-Motley School Board approved a building referendum for April 13. Informational meetings were set for the public to attend.

Feb. 3: Lakewood Health System provided the first COVID-19 vaccination to approximately 643 people, starting with essential caregivers and those 65 years and older, at their drive-through vaccination clinic.

Feb. 17: Fire destroyed the home of Tracy Thompson and her son, Travis Eisel, of Staples, the night of Feb. 10. Thankfully, the

two were able to escape the blazing inferno.

Feb. 24: Blayne Dump-prope was one of the Minnesota National Guard members from Camp Ripley who were deployed to Washington, D.C. during the inauguration of President Joe Biden.

Feb. 24: The Staples Motley Early Childhood Coalition disbanded, but left many programs in place that followed their motto, "For the Good of the Children."

Feb. 24: Blake Gerard and Lynnette Kern are the new owners of Williams Floral in Staples, a family tradition since 1927.

Feb. 24: A fire at the Kevin and Jennie Dezell home deemed the home unlivable due to heavy smoke damage.

March 3: The Staples-Motley School District hosted four informational sessions for the public to learn more about the proposed \$64 million building referendum. Between 15 and 25 community members attended each meeting.

March 10: Charles Mallory's new book "Are You Watching Me?" shares tales that highlight the beauty of giving encouragement.

March 17: Keith Olander, Executive Director of AgCentric and Agricultural Partnerships with Minnesota State and Central Lakes College, was inducted into the Minnesota Future Farmers of America Hall of Fame.

March 17: Tower Pizza,



Photos of the year - Cardinal pride

March 17: Derek Holst, Mike Hajek and Kevin Swecker install the Cardinal Pride sign into place along Highway 10 in Staples, near the 6th Street stoplights. The sign represents the 30 team state champions and 63 individual state champions that Staples, Motley and Staples-Motley athletes have earned.

a mainstay in downtown Staples since 1984, is now under new ownership. Eric and Alissa (Pesta) Neznik purchased the business from Roger Houselog.

March 24: Molly Lindgren has earned a coxswain position on the University of Minnesota Gopher Women's Rowing team. "I'm the brain of the boat," Lindgren said.

March 31: TJ Braith, his daughter, Jasmine, 19 and son Tucker, 14, picked up a number of trophies racing vintage snowmobiles in the Central MN Pond Racing circuit.

April 7: Ray Gildow will be enshrined by The Fishing Hall of Fame of Minnesota in 2021. Gildow is a fishing guide who helped form the Nisswa Guide League, and is a TV personality, writer and radio host.

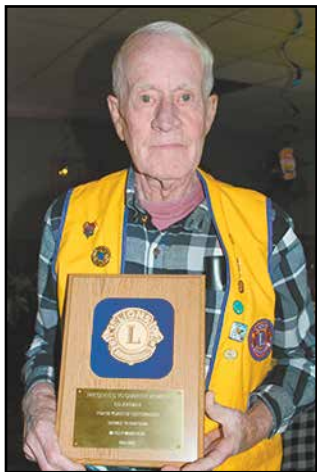
April 7: Minnesota Twins television announcer Dick Bremer still draws on his experience playing high school baseball and taking classes at Staples High School. Some of those experiences are in Bremer's book, "Game Used: My Life in Stitches with the Minne

See **2021** on page 10a

Thank you for subscribing!

Motley Lions Club celebrates 50 years

Charter member Ed Jordahl recognized



Charter member

Lion Ed Jordahl was honored for being a charter member of the Motley Lions Club at their 50th Anniversary Celebration Dec. 11, 2021.

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

It's been 50 years since the Motley Lions Club was organized and since that time, its members have continued to serve their community while having a lot of fun along the way.

The club recently held a 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Ten-Hi in Motley, where they looked back on all that had been accomplished since their charter on Dec. 16, 1971.

Longtime member and current Lion President Don DeLude was the emcee for the evening's festivities. Guest speakers included Lion Bruce Beck, Past International Director; and Lion Terry Bailey, District Governor 5MB. Members of other area Lions clubs were in attendance as well, including Staples Host, Staples '93, Palisade, Lincoln Scandia Valley, and Long Prairie.

In his presentation, Lion Beck shared a quote from Lions Club International's Founder Melvin Jones: 'You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else.'

Lion Beck went on to note several things the Motley Lions have accomplished over the past five decades, including purchasing hearing aids and glasses for locals in need, participating in parades,

sponsoring the June Fest Fireworks, supporting their local food shelf, contributing to Dollars for Scholars, maintaining the town's ice rink warming house, helping with Bingo at the care center and sponsoring the annual Lunch with Santa event.

What's been the Motley Lions' secret to longevity? Lion Beck asked the crowd. "Service!" was his answer.

Charter member

Charter member Lion Ed Jordahl was in attendance, and received gifts in recognition of his 50 years of service. He later shared some memories and highlights of being a Motley Lion.

Jordahl recalled the day Vern Seipkes and Marv Swecker stopped by the El Ray in Motley, the restaurant he owned at the time. "They talked me into it," Jordahl said of the two who were recruiting new members. "Fifty years later, I'm still here," he laughed.

He looks back on these years fondly. In addition to the friendships made, Lion Jordahl says it's satisfying to be a part of an organization that's done so much good for the community.

There have been many projects during that time, Lion Jordahl said. Some that stand out in his mind include helping build the ice rink warming house and the shelter at Veterans Park; and helping remodel city hall.

Since he was in the restaurant business (Jordahl also owned 'Mr. Ed's' for many years), Lion Jordahl was in charge of the food which the Motley Lions served at various events. "We used to do the Memorial Day dinner at the school every year...and we always had a food booth at the fairgrounds," he recalled.

Because he was so busy with his work in those earlier years, the Motley Lions often held their meetings at his restaurant. Yes, a lot of meetings were held at Mr. Ed's back in the day.

He's served as the club's president several times over the years, Lion Jordahl said. "Don DeLude and I take turns," he laughed.

Jordahl recalled some of the charter members he served with, mentioning Charles Farber, Stan Bettis



Still serving their community

Members of the Motley Lions (and friends) gathered to celebrate their club's 50th anniversary at a celebration Dec. 11, 2021, at the Ten-Hi in Motley. Pictured, outside row from left, are Lion Paula Johnson, Lion Wanda Lutzke, Lion Glen Sutton, Lion Anita Sutton, Lion Nancy

Lucas, Lion Mary Munger, Lion Pat O'Regan, Lion Bruce Brotherton, Marinell Philipp. Inside row, from left, are Lion Garrett Sutton, Lion Junita Pierce and Lion Ariel Praska. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)



Lion President honored

Motley Lions Club President Don DeLude (right) received a gift from Lion Bruce Beck, Past International Director, in honor of his service with the Motley Lions. Lion Beck was also a guest speaker at the Motley Lions' recent anniversary event.

and Lloyd Johnson. "Oh, I had a lot of good friends (from that group); they're gone now."

In addition to the projects they accomplished, Jordahl recalled the fun they've had along the way. There were the ice races

out on the lake, after which they'd go chop wood for people who needed it; and the camaraderie shared at meetings. Jordahl remembered a convention they went to in Winnipeg back in 1975. They traveled by bus with a Lions group from



Welcome crew

Lions Mary Munger (left) and Anita Sutton, all decked out in their '50s attire, greeted guests as they arrived for the Motley Lions 50th Anniversary Celebration Dec. 11. The event was held at the Ten-Hi in Motley.

Little Falls. "They tooted horns all the way there and slept all the way home," he laughed.

As with all organizations, they've lost members over the years and gained others along the way.

It was an all-male club early on, Lion Jordahl said, adding that it was opened up to women about 20 - 25 years ago. That was a posi-

tive change, as they've been able to accomplish more with increased membership. Jordahl is also pleased that some younger people have joined the Motley Lions in recent years.

If people ask why they should join the Motley Lions, Jordahl says, "It's a way to serve their local community...a lot needs to be done."



Well-deserved recognition

Motley Lions Charter Member Ed Jordahl (second from right) looks over the gifts he received at the club's recent 50th Anniversary Celebration in recognition for his years of service. Also pictured, from left, are Lion Bruce Beck, Past International Director; Motley Lion

President Don DeLude; and Lion Terry Bailey, District Governor 5MB. Lions Beck and Bailey were both guest speakers at the celebration event.



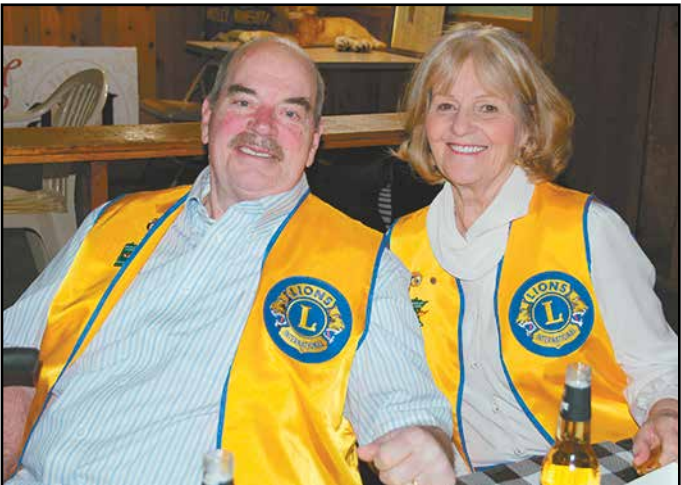
Pride of Motley Lions

Motley Lion Glen Sutton (left), his daughter Lion Ariel Praska (center) and son, Lion Garrett Sutton, looked at items available at the silent auction, held during

the club's recent celebration. In keeping with the '50s theme, many of the women wore 'poodle' skirts (made by Marge Tepley of Motley) that featured a 'Lion' design.

The next generation

At left: Descendents of the late Ernest Converse, a Charter Member of the Motley Lions, attended the club's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Pictured, from left, are Ernest's great-grandson Landen Converse; his daughter Mary Munger; and great-granddaughter Jazmyn Hall. Mary is the grandmother to both Landen and Jazmyn. The Motley Lions had a 'Back to the '50s' theme, in honor of their 50 years of service.



Enjoy serving together

Lions Steve and Paula Johnson of Motley are happy to belong to the Motley Lions, and enjoyed the club's 50th Anniversary Celebration this past December.

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Rep. for Fergus Falls Monument Co.
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COUNTY continued from page 1a

Yearly approvals

Valley Express, American Legion Post 417, Partridge Creek Blinds and More LLC, Rohde’s Midway Gas Bar and Grill, and Shady’s Golden Eagle.

- Approved a One-Year On & Off Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor License for Don & Dave’s Store in Moran Township effective January 1.
- Approved a gambling permit for the Midwest Outdoors Unlimited-Prairie Partners Chapter to hold a raffle event at the Hub Supper Club in Burnhamville Township.
- Approved the 2021 elections budget carryover in the amount of \$15,000.
- Renewed the Hands of Hope Resource Center Lease Agreement for January 1.
- Approved Chatton D. Bolden to repurchase four parcels that had been tax-forfeited to the State for nonpayment of property taxes on July 9, 2021. Bolden with be responsible to pay all back taxes and any associated fees.
- On December 28, 2017, the commissioners approved the advance of \$300,000 from the General Fund to the Ditch Fund for the County Ditch 18 Project.
- On September 4, 2018, the board approved the 10-year repayment terms of the special assessment for the project. Each year, until fully repaid, the amount of principal funds collected along with the amount of interest collected is transferred from the Ditch Fund as a partial repayment back to the General Fund.
- This year’s amount is \$23,365.
- For those not covered by a collective bargaining unit (union) the following was approved for health insurance coverage.
- The county will pay the cost of single insurance coverage up to \$813.91 per month, or the full cost of the premium, whichever is less.
- Additionally, the county will pay \$1,300 toward the employee and spouse coverage, \$1,075 toward employee and child(ren) coverage and \$1400 toward family coverage, or the full cost of the premium, whichever is less.
- Approved a resolution authorizing Todd County’s participation in the multi-state settlements relating to opioid distributors and manufactures, and the Minnesota Opioids State-Subdivision Memorandum of Agreement, and declaring support for an amendment to Minn. Stat. 256.043, Subd. 3 (d).
- The total settlement was for \$300 million with Todd County being eligible for \$863,000 payable at \$48,000 for 18 years.
- There are rules regarding what the money can be used for.
- Approved waiving the rental fees for the Todd County Ag Society’s Winter Demo Derby event scheduled at the Todd County Fairgrounds.
- They will still need to pay the security deposits for the overall use of the grounds and the grandstand. They are providing their own porta-potties.
- Adopted a resolution for the establishment of a Merit System of Personnel Administration at the county level. This is a step in leaving the State’s Merit System.
- The proposed 2022 Solid Waste Budget is for \$3,043,560 in revenue generation and \$3,042,123 in expenses. It was approved.
- Authorized the Solid Waste Department to issue licenses and permits for the following applicants: LPS, City Sanitary, Tom’s Refuse, Alex Rubbish and Matheisen. Contingent upon receipt of necessary documents issue licenses and permits for the following applicants: G&T Sanitation, and Waste Management.
- With Commissioner David Kircher opposed, the board approved a recycling survey for the Solid Waste Committee.
- The survey will be used to determine the public’s opinion about options for increasing recycling in Todd County.
- Forum Communications provided a proposal to print and mail the survey for approximately \$15,000 for 13,500 mailings (including postage).

The county will also offer an on-line web based version of the survey for people who do not receive the mailing.

- Kircher felt that since there was already interest in more recycling that the survey was a waste of money.
- Read an update on the STEP program (formerly known as the DAC).
- STEP provides Day Training and Habilitation and Supportive Employment Services for clients with mental health and developmental disabilities.
- Approved the STEP purchase of service and host county contract renewal at \$100,000. An increase is anticipated for upcoming years.
- Approved the Northern Pines purchase of service agreement renewal. The cost is based on use.
- Approved application by Simon Schmucker for a conditional use permit (CUP) in Iona Township to establish a wood processing operation in AF-1 Zoning. The final recommendation from the Planning Commission was to grant the conditional use with conditions that hours of operation shall be restricted to 8a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday; and there shall be no loading or unloading of materials within the road right of way.
- A request to rezone a parcel in Leslie Township from AF-1 to Shoreland-GD was submitted by Doug Lien. The board granted the rezoning with no conditions.
- A request for a preliminary plat for Lakeside Acres First Addition and Lakeside Acres Second Addition was remanded back to the Planning Commission.
- This is the development that had been spoken of in the public comment portion of the Dec. 10 meeting.
- Commissioner Randy Neumann said that the township needed to be able to submit their input before these were approved.
- Approved the Luna Sioux Hideaway Preliminary Plat (in Leslie Township) with conditions.
- Granted a CUP for Joseph Frank to establish a ground mounted community solar facility in AF-2 Zoning.
- A request by Blair Hetland and Mary Krause to rezone a parcel in Round Prairie Township from Commercial to R-2 was denied the rezoning petition with findings of fact as follows:
 1. Request to rezone to R-2 will create a spot zone.
 2. Comprehensive Plan Land Use Guiding Principle #2 states: Optimize the existing and future use of our land resources, to be consistent with good economic development practices and concern for the environment, in ways that minimize conflicts between citizens of the county.
- Neumann was opposed.
- An application for a CUP in Burleene Township was submitted by Eddie Kauffman to establish a commercial Greenhouse in R-10 Zoning.
- The request was approved with conditions as follow:
 1. The greenhouse operator must provide adequate off street parking for all greenhouse traffic. No parking will be allowed within the road right of way.
 2. No loading or unloading of materials will be allowed within the road right of way.
 3. The business is restricted to two greenhouse structures. Construction of additional greenhouses will require review by the Planning Commission.
- An application for a CUP in Birchdale Township was submitted by Anthony and Nicole Middendorf to increase the allowed animal units on a site in Shoreland-NE Zoning by 93.02 animal units to 99 animal units.
- It was approved with conditions:
 - The facility owners must maintain registration every four years and remain compliant with the Todd County ordinance and MN 7020 rules.
 - No feedlot, stock pile, or farm compost can be developed in the area directly to the north and west of the basin between the barns.

75 YEARS Ago - 1947

- Jan. 2, 1947 - Two Christmas babies arrived at the Staples Municipal Hospital on Christmas day, and hospital attendants were busy caring for the mothers and babes most of the day.
- Mrs. Peter Braith gave birth to her first child, a daughter, born at 1:20 a.m., on Christmas day. The little girl weighed seven pounds and 13 1/2 ounces at birth. She has been named Janice CeCeila.
- The second Christmas baby was born to Mrs. Stanley Borle (Dorothy Grant) at 1:05 p.m., and weighed even eight pounds. This is the second boy for the Borles, and the little fellow has been

- O -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
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- named Stanley Dale.
- The hospital staff has been exceptionally busy of late taking care of the babies which have been born at the hospital. Thirteen were born during the month of November, and it is expected that that record will be broken during the month of December.
- Jan. 2, 1947 - December was the “rush” month at the Staples Municipal hospital and hospital attendants were kept busy caring for the 19 babies born there during that month.
- Ten baby boys and nine baby girls were born at the hospital during December and this is the highest month on record at the hospital since it was first opened several years ago.
- Jan. 2, 1947 - Dr. Jay



Mystery solved

Last week’s mystery photo, published in the Dec. 26, 1996 edition of the Staples World featured Fred Mertens, Staples Area Food Shelf Manager, along with second graders at Staples Elementary School who had helped donate to the food shelf. The students, from left, are Kayla Collison, John Dahlvang, Justin Edin and Kevin Voeltz. Nearly 100 second grade students collected cans and boxes for a math project, an exercise to compare weights and sizes, with the end result of this donation. One student from each class was represented in the photo.

Mike Mertens of Staples recognized his dad, Fred. Fred and Frannie Mertens ran the food shelf for many years and Fran continued to faithfully serve even after her husband’s passing. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

Law enforcement reports, Motley area

- Recent reports from the Motley Police Department (MPD) and Morrison County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) included the following:
 - Dec. 23 - 29**
 - Dec. 29 - The MPD issued a citation to Charles Biggar, 32, for driving while using a cell phone.
 - Dec. 26 - Per the request of Cass County, the MCSO paged Motley Fire and Rescue for a vehicle accident with unknown injuries at 120th St. SW and 79th Ave. SW in Motley.
 - Dec. 26 - The MCSO assisted state patrol with a crash on Hwy 10 North near Motley

M. Cook, of Staples, was stricken with a heart attack while on duty at the Staples Municipal hospital Friday evening of last week, and is still a patient at the hospital, although he is considerably improved.

- Dr. Cook was visiting his patients at the hospital when the heart attack struck him, and within a very short time he suffered two more attacks. Oxygen was administered immediately, and he recovered from the attacks in fair condition.
- Jan. 2, 1947 - The heaviest mail season in the history of the Staples post office was recorded this holiday season, according to employees of the post office in Staples.

A total of 72,000 letters were sent out of this office during the Christmas season according to the count of the cancelling machine at the office.

Besides all of these letters, the parcel post mail sent ran very high this year, and possibly equalled, if not surpassed, previous years of mailing from the Staples post office.

50 YEARS Ago - 1972

- Jan. 6, 1972 - “Our Life with the Garos of Assam, India,” by Ruth Grimes Ewing of Staples, has just been released by Dorrance and Company, Philadelphia, it was announced this week.
- In the early 1920’s, Ruth Grimes Ewing and her husband, the Rev. Raymond H. Ewing, were sent to the far corner of India in the Himalayan foothills of Assam Province as their first missionary assignment. According to the publisher, “this is the story



Mystery photo

Hello readers. This week’s archive photo is from our March 21, 2002 edition. Do you know who these people are and perhaps the context of the photo? Do you have a memory to share? Email your answers and where you are from to dtimbs@staplesworld.com by Friday, or call 218-894-1112. The answers will be published in next week’s paper, as well as a new mystery photo.

of the Ewings’ struggle to relate the Christian message by word and example to the Garos, the inhabitants of the Garo Hills, who had been head-hunters until relatively recently and still retained many of the vestiges of primitivism.”

Ruth Grimes Ewing received her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the University of Chicago and in 1920, was named the first licensed Methodist woman pastor in the Chicago area.

She and her husband are both ordained ministers of the United Church of Christ and continue to serve, although retired.

- Jan. 6, 1972 - The Staples Cardinals walked off with four champions and three runners-up in the Paul Bunyan Invitational wrestling tournament last week in Brainerd. The Cards won the team champions with 122 points.

The seven finalists from the Dravis coached squad included Mark Bendson, champion at 105; Charles Sowers, champion at 126; Gordy Thompson, champion at 132; Loren Bendson, champion at 138; Harry Goeden, runner up at 98; Mike Roberts, runner-up at 119; and Jim Nichols, runner-up at heavyweight.

- Jan. 6, 1972 - The Motley Junior High Speech team joined seven other schools at Bemidji High School for a Junior High Speech Festival Dec. 18. They participated in three categories; Humorous Interpretation, Storytelling and Extemporaneous Reading.
- Tami Kraft in Humorous Interpretations received A’s in all three rounds of speaking. Other participants were Kelly Boldan, Janice Kristenson, Kim Jenkins, Cindy Jensen, Tony Dvorak, Mary Vasecka, David Fredrickson and Danny Zetah. Coaches Pam Sachs and June Doty, accompanied the team to Bemidji and served in judging capacities.
- Jan. 6, 1972 - Rebecca Jean Webster, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Webster, rural Browerville, was the first baby born at the Staples Municipal Hospital in 1972. She was born at 8:10 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. The maternal grandmother is Mrs. Lucille Mudick, rural

Browerville, and Mrs. Nora Trout of Staples is the great-grandmother.

25 YEARS Ago - 1997

- Jan. 2, 1997 - The Staples Motley Cardinals boys basketball team took second place in the Rochester Invitational Tournament over the weekend, losing the championship game to Minnetonka 61-67 Saturday.
- Jan. 2, 1997 - Dan Otteson a 6’5” senior center; Chris Heier a 6’5” senior forward and Erik Kelly a 6’1” senior guard, all from Staples Motley High School, have been named by Minnesota Basketball News to the Top 100 List in the 75 page Boys Preview. Last season Otteson averaged 12 points and 8 rebounds per game. Heier averaged 15.8 points and 8 rebounds per game and Kelly averaged 17.8 points and 3 rebounds per game.
- Jan. 2, 1997 - Twenty-five members of the Staples Host Lions club delivered 39 food baskets to families in the immediate Staples area on Dec. 21. All the fixings for a complete turkey dinner were assembled at Hell-ing’s Super Value. Assemblers included Steve Palmer, Anne Palmer, Abby Palmer, Mike Palmer and Mike Metzler.

10 YEARS Ago - 2012

- Jan. 5, 2012 - Todd and Amanda Hillukka of Pelican Rapids welcomed their son, Traven Isaiah, to the world Jan. 1, 2012, at 12:28 p.m. Delivered by Dr. Julie Benson, he was the first baby of the year born at Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples.
- Jan. 5, 2012 - The Staples Motley Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 19 new members into their ranks on Dec. 14. They included Paige Klimek, Tabetha Trantina, Janelle Jennissen, Rebecca Nemitz, Michael Strain, Taylor Bissonette, Jessica Hobson, Celena Martin, Robyn Capistrant, Robin Melse, Courtney Lisson, Rebecca Harris, Guthrie Coughlin, Aaron Carter, seniors; and Claire Uhlman, Brent Lisson, Theresa Odden, Brooke Wolhowe and Maggie O’Keefe, juniors.

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Education in nature

In 2020, Central RSDP worked with Leech Lake Early Childhood Development to develop research-based outdoor learning and play spaces. See story below. Photo credit: Jordan Hedlund.

Central Partnership accepting proposals for community projects

Central Minnesota residents with an idea to strengthen their community can now apply for partnership support from the University of Minnesota Extension Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (Central RSDP).

Central RSDP supports local innovation by connecting community ideas to University of Minnesota resources. Community members work on diverse project teams that research, design and plan local sustainability projects with University students, faculty and staff.

Central RSDP seeks ideas from diverse populations and those who have not previously partnered with the University. In 2022, priorities identified by the Central RSDP include projects that foster a resilient food system that provides sustainably-raised, just and equitable food that is accessible to all; protect the right of nature to persevere and heal, addressing climate change and other ecological impacts, through working together and building bridges for the collective good; increase opportunities around energy efficiency, renewable energy and beneficial electrification in ways that support economic and environmental vitality; and foster resilient, inclusive local communities that welcome all residents and that protect the region's rich and growing cultural traditions, natural assets and vibrant local economies.

"Now more than ever we need ideas and expertise from community members across Central Minnesota to help shape communities that are resilient in the face of change," said Central RSDP Executive Director Molly Zins. "I encourage people to get in touch with me to talk about their ideas for making our communities more sustainable places."

Project ideas are being accepted through February 14 and can be submitted online at z.umn.edu/RSDPIdeaBrief. Community members are encouraged to contact Zins at zend0007@umn.edu or 218-828-2332 to discuss their ideas and ask any questions. Successful projects are selected by the Central RSDP community-University governing board through a competitive process.

Examples of projects recently supported by the Central RSDP include work with

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Early Childhood Development on a nature-based curriculum, strategic planning for a halal meat-processing plant, development of a podcast series sharing diverse stories from communities along the Mississippi River, and research on affordable housing needs and opportunities in the region. For more examples of projects supported by the Central RSDP, visit z.umn.edu/RSDPProjectExamples.

The Central RSDP serves Becker, Benton, Cass, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Stearns, Todd and Wadena counties and the White Earth Nation, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe sovereign Native nations.

Central RSDP is one of five regions of the University of Minnesota Extension Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP). For more information on RSDP, visit RSDP.umn.edu. University of Minnesota Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Very little election fraud found in review

By Christina A. Cassidy
Associated Press

An Associated Press review of every potential case of voter fraud in the six battleground states disputed by former President Donald Trump has found fewer than 475 - a number that would have made no difference in the 2020 presidential election.

Democrat Joe Biden won Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and their 79 Electoral College votes by a combined 311,257 votes out of 25.5 million ballots cast for president. The disputed ballots represent just 0.15 percent (%) of his victory margin in those states.

The cases could not throw the outcome into question even if all the potentially fraudulent votes were for Biden, which they were not, and even if those ballots were actually counted, which in most cases they were not.

The review also showed no collusion intended to rig the voting. Virtually every case was based on an individual acting alone to cast additional ballots.

The findings build on a mountain of other evidence that the election wasn't rigged, including verifica-

tion of the results by Republican governors.

The AP review, a process that took months and encompassed more than 300 local election offices, is one of the most comprehensive examinations of suspected voter fraud in last year's presidential election. It relies on information collected at the local level, where officials must reconcile their ballots and account for discrepancies, and includes a handful of separate cases cited by secretaries of state and state attorneys general.

Contacted for comment, Trump repeated a litany of unfounded claims of fraud he had made previously, but offered no new evidence that specifically contradicted the AP's reporting. He said a soon-to-come report from a source he would not disclose would support his case, and insisted increased mail voting alone had opened the door to cheating that involved "hundreds of thousands of votes."

"I just don't think you should make a fool out of yourself by saying 400 votes," he said.

These are some of the culprits in the "massive election fraud" Trump falsely says deprived him of a second term:

- A Wisconsin man who mistakenly thought he

- could vote while on parole.
- A woman in Arizona suspected of sending in a ballot for her dead mother.
- A Pennsylvania man who went twice to the polls, voting once on his own behalf and once for his son.

The cases were isolated. There was no widespread, coordinated deceit.

The cases also underscore that suspected fraud is both generally detected and exceptionally rare.

"Voter fraud is virtually non-existent," said George Christenson, election clerk for Milwaukee County in Wisconsin, where five people statewide have been charged with fraud out of nearly 3.3 million ballots cast for president. "I would have to venture a guess that's about the same odds as getting hit by lightning."

Details of AP's investigations in each state are at <https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-arizona-donald-trump-voter-registration-tucson-c64bba90b-8c074bf8bdfdc2751b6b0f2>.

Editor's note: At the request of the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues, publisher of The Rural Blog, AP has agreed to allow weekly newspapers that are not AP subscribers to republish this story.

CWD found in Brainerd Lakes area deer

From Minnesota DNR

A newly discovered instance of chronic wasting disease in the Brainerd Lakes area will result in three more years of sampling and other disease management efforts for that area. In addition, following the confirmation of a CWD-positive deer in late October in Polk County near the North Dakota border, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will expand its deer feeding and attractant ban to include most of northwestern Minnesota.

"These are precautionary but necessary measures," said Michelle Carstensen, wildlife health program supervisor for the Minnesota DNR. "Continued sampling allows us to monitor the extent of CWD in the Brainerd area. Expanding the feeding ban around Climax and Bemidji eliminates one layer of controllable risk associated with the concentration of wild deer at food placed by humans."

Brainerd Lakes CWD discovery

One of the 1,234 deer that hunters harvested thus far this fall in deer permit area 604 tested positive for CWD. The area, which stretches north from Brainerd to Pine River and eastward to Aitkin, was in its final year of

planned CWD surveillance and management because the disease had not been detected there since a wild doe tested positive in 2019. That initial discovery in wild deer came after testing in 2016 revealed that a deer farm within permit area 604 was infected with CWD.

"Like us, area residents and hunters were optimistic that deer management could return to normal," Carstensen said. "It's unfortunate but this discovery resets the clock, and CWD management measures will remain in place through at least the fall of 2024."

With nearly 15,000 wild deer in the area tested since 2017 and only two positives found, the DNR is confident CWD is not prevalent or widespread in this area's wild deer population. But continued testing as well as other efforts to help reduce risks of CWD spread – such as more liberal harvest regulations, carcass movement restrictions and a ban on feeding and attractants – are the best ways to minimize the risk of CWD becoming established in the area.

Deer feeding, attractant ban expands

Minnesota's deer feeding ban will expand on Thursday, Dec. 30, to include 44 of Minnesota's 87 counties.

The discovery of a CWD-infected wild deer near Climax along the Minnesota-North Dakota border adds Clearwater, Mahanomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk and Red Lake counties to the list of counties where deer feeding and the use of attractants such as salt, minerals and urine is not allowed.

Counties already part of the feeding and attractant ban are Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Dakota, Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Hennepin, Houston, Hubbard, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Mower, Olmsted, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Steele, Todd, Wabasha, Wadena, Washington and Winona.

Detection of CWD on a deer farm in Beltrami County adds Beltrami, Itasca,

ca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods and Roseau counties to the list of counties where deer feeding is not allowed. Deer feed includes grains, fruits, vegetables, nuts, hay and other food that is capable of attracting or enticing deer.

Counties already part of the deer feeding ban are Carlton, Chisago, Douglas, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Pope, and Stearns.

Feeding bans and attractant bans are part of the DNR's CWD response plan and necessary because feed and attractants often cause deer to concentrate, greatly increasing the risk of deer-to-deer disease transmission.

Preliminary fall sampling results

Southeast: CWD testing of 4,705 deer revealed 17 new cases of CWD. All deer that tested positive were harvested in locations near areas where the disease was previously detected. Despite the new discoveries, CWD prevalence remains steady and continues to be low – less than 1% in both areas where the disease appears to be persisting in the wild deer population.

North central (Brainerd Lakes area): Of the 1,234 deer tested so far this fall, a single 1½-year-old male tested positive. The infected deer was harvested about 8 miles from the location where the first wild infected deer was detected. Since 2019, this is the only deer that tested positive from all 6,107 deer sampled in this zone.

South metro: Testing detected CWD in two of the 1,063 deer sampled. One case was in the northwestern corner of permit area 605. The other was near locations where infected deer were previously detected.

East central: No CWD detected in the 1,369 deer tested.

West central: No CWD detected in the 369 deer tested.

Northwest: No CWD detected in the 1,782 deer tested.

Climax area: No CWD detected in the 65 deer tested.

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

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Quote of the week

“Truth never damages a cause that is just.”
— Mahatma Gandhi



Ice and snow shoveling

Local businesses have been busy shoveling snow and ice off the sidewalks in Staples a few times this winter. Above, along 4th St. NE the morning of Dec. 16, Niki Rodrigues clears the walkway outside of Baby Steps thrift store. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

COVID numbers lower, deaths rose in surge

While much of the United States is seeing record numbers of COVID-19 cases, the local area is trending down from a peak in November.

In Staples, 16 new cases were recorded in the week of Dec. 30, down from 30 the previous two weeks. Motley had 11 new cases, about the same as the previous two weeks. Other area communities are also down from the peak.

The number of deaths associated with COVID-19

rose with the surge in November and December. In Cass County, there were 14 deaths in a six week period beginning Nov. 18, bringing the total number of COVID deaths to 64 since the pandemic began.

Todd County had 11 deaths in the six week period, with 51 total since the pandemic started. Morrison County recorded 10 new deaths in six weeks to reach 87 total, and Wadena had 8 deaths in six weeks to bring their total to 44.

Mark Your Calendar

January 6

STAPLES SERENITY AA GROUP MTGS are held at the Staples Assembly of God Church on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning at 7 p.m. Masks required. For more info., 320-874-0979.

January 7

WOMEN'S OPEN AA RECOVERY MEETING Every Friday in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

January 10

AA GROUP MTGS IN MOTLEY are held at the United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., on Mondays at 8 p.m.

January 13

TODD COUNTY REPUBLICANS MTG Thursday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m. Republican MN gubernatorial candidates available for questions 5 - 7 p.m., at Thunder Lodge, 22056 US 71, Long Prairie. For info., Facebook at Todd County Minnesota Republicans, or call 401-632-7849.

January 19

STAPLES 60+ SENIOR CITIZENS 'PENNY BINGO' PARTY Wednesday, Jan. 19, at noon. If you wish to eat lunch, call 218-894-2556 before noon on Jan. 18 to reserve a meal.

STAPLES ALL VETERANS AND COMMUNITY PARK ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL AND MONTHLY BOARD MTGS will be held Wednesday, Jan. 19, at Timbers Restaurant and Event Center in Staples, at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend. To attend via Zoom, contact Bob Hamann at 218-894-3139 for info.

Snowmobile Safety Field Day Jan. 15

A 'Snowmobile Safety Field Day' will be held Saturday, Jan. 15, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., at Staples Sportsman's Club, 27158 McGivern Dr., Staples.

Randy Wilson is the instructor for the class. For more information and to register, contact him by phone at 218-371-1598 or email at randypingwilson59@gmail.com

Requirements:
• Students must be 11 years of age before the class

start date.
• Students (ages 11 - 15) must also complete one of the online courses prior to the start of class and bring a completion voucher to the class. Online courses (and fee information) can be found at <http://www.snowmobilecourse.com/usa/minnesota>

Snowmobiles will be provided. Students are asked to dress for the weather and bring their helmets.



~~ JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE ~~
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Congratulations to these 5-Star employees

Amanda Mithun, LMFT, Behavior Health Home Integration Specialist
Nominated by Kimberly Bryniarski, LPN, Clinic Services Quality Improvement Manager
"Nearly one year ago Amanda responded to a local crisis involving CLC students. CLC reached out as they knew Amanda's expertise since she had been piloting a project there. She immediately asked if she could go and provide support to the students and staff. In fact she offered to take her vacation time or go unpaid so she could offer her support. She did all of this within a matter of hours of receiving the call. Amanda's expertise has shown through time and time again with everyone she encounters, especially at CLC with their students and staff. The CLC President, Dean of Students, teachers and staff are very grateful for her and her continued support. Not only is she living out LHS values on campus she is a great resource to all who meet her."

Ben Johnson, Occupational Health Coordinator
Nominated by Kimberly Bryniarski, LPN, Clinic Services Quality Improvement Manager
"For the past couple of years Ben has graciously volunteered to move the Resuscitation Quality Improvement (RQI) cart around from clinic to clinic. This allows clinic staff to complete their monthly CPR skills testing at their primary clinic location. When asked to do this task he took it on without hesitation. He coordinates moving the cart with maintenance for use of their trailer as well as nursing supervisors. Since the pandemic, Ben has also stepped up and has not said no to whatever has been asked of him. In the early months of the pandemic he screened employees, working extra shifts, weekends and different hours all while keeping up with his regular Occupational Health Coordinator duties. Most recently he has taken on the role of assisting with swabbing employees for point prevalence testing (PPT). Ben consistently portrays LHS values and his accountability to help out the system does not go unnoticed."

Katie Paine-Santos, RN, Long Term Care Coordinator and Ashley Wallgren, RN, Care Center Director of Nursing
Nominated by Kristi Wanner, RN and Lisa Dailey, RN, Care Center
"At the Care Center, we have been in a strained situation for the past few weeks in which our team has had to rally together to overcome the challenges that have ensued. Everyone has been working to the best of their ability to take care of the residents that have become our family. Ashley and Katie, however, have gone above and beyond in this respect with their dedication and commitment to care for our residents. Their professionalism and ambition have been outstanding as they have worked countless hours at whatever void was needing to be filled, and at whatever time of day it was needed. They have even had to juggle all their own job duties besides having to sacrifice their family time to work on the weekends to assist in resident care. Their transparency, dedication and love of what they do is noted by all."

218-894-1515 lakewoodhealthsystem.com

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Donna Denny

Donabelle “Donna” Denny, 90, of Staples and formerly of Verndale, passed away December 26, 2021, at Lakewood Health System Care Center, Staples.

Funeral services celebrating her life will be held at Sunday, January 9, at 4:00 p.m. at the Verndale Alliance Church. Visitation will be held at the church on Sunday, from 2:00 p.m. until the time of services.

Donna was born to John and Alma (Overby) Coleman on January 7, 1931, in Staples.

She married Lee Denny on March 30, 1951. They had five children, Rick (Brenda) Denny of Otsego, Ronnie (Robin) Denny of St. Cloud, Shari (Brad) Schmidt of Decatur, TX, Roger (Candy) Denny of Crystal and Randy (Juli) Denny of Shoreview.

Donna’s life was centered around her children and grandchildren. She was loved and adored by generations of Verndale athletes as she was ever present in her “Verndale green” sitting in the front row cheering them on. She enjoyed baking pies, family events with intense card games and watching sports. Donna was famous for spontaneous conversations with random



Verndale Auxiliary Club and the “Birthday Club” for over 60 years.

She will forever be remembered as a loving wife, mother and grandmother to her 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, along with many relatives and friends.

Donna was preceded in death by her husband, Lee (2018); parents and four siblings, DeVon Coleman, Iris Tidball, John Coleman and Bob Rollins.

Arrangements are with the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Verndale (www.SchullerFamilyFH.com).

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strangers.

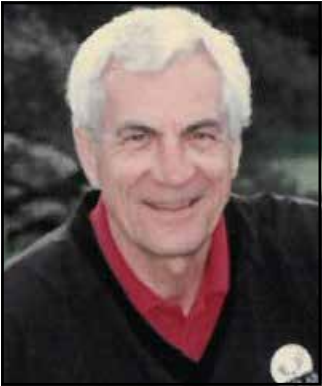
Donna’s first job was working at Booner’s Soda Bar in 1949 and then at National Tea, Staples. She was employed at Miller True Value in Staples from 1974 to 1990, working alongside her sister, Juanita and brother-in-law, Derald Miller. She was a member of the Verndale Alliance Church, serving in the Awana program and as a Sunday School teacher. Donna was a member of the

Leonard Miller

Leonard, L.J. “Pat” Miller, 92, of Staples went to be with the Lord on December 25, 2021, at the Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples.

A private family memorial service will be held. A recording of the service will be available after January 20, 2022 on www.brenny.com.

Pat was born June 17, 1929 to N.A. “Sam” Miller and Pearl Miller in Crookston. The family moved to Staples in the summer of 1939 and he took part in the 50th Anniversary celebration of Staples. Pat started school that fall and graduated in 1947. During the WWII years, he worked on the Northern Pacific Railroad (NPRR) as a crew caller and on the section crew in the Staples yard. After graduating he got a job on the rail-



road as a fireman and five years later, was promoted to engineer. He married Donna Greeno on July 17, 1948 at the Staples Methodist Church. They had three children, Kenneth, Douglas and Jon. In 1964 Pat opened “Pat Miller Photographics” specializing in general photographic work and photographic restoration. In 1972 Pat was offered a teaching position with the Staples Area Vocational Technical Institute (SAVTI) in the Photographic Department. Pat took advantage of the college courses that were offered evenings and during the summer. In 1978 Pat received his BS degree, Summa Cum Laude. In 1980 he received a Master of Science degree from Bemidji State University. The program was recognized throughout the industry as a source of well-trained individuals that were hired in manufacturing plants, photo labs and studios in

the state. Pat retired in 1994 as Chairman of the Media Department.

Pat and Donna loved to travel to Europe, Hawaii, Mexico and around the United States. He was an avid golfer participating in many tournaments. Pat loved his Harley motorcycle making many trips to the Black Hills. He touched people’s lives through is photography which included weddings, graduations, family photos and outdoor scenes. Pat was an active member of the United Methodist Church in Staples serving on many committees and teaching Sunday School.

He is survived by his wife, Donna, of 73 wonderful years; two sons, Kenneth (Kathleen) Miller and Jon Miller; two grandchildren, Michael (Marissa) Miller and Lindsey Miller and six great-grandchildren, Taylonee, Kendrick, Jaylen, Theo, Gus and Luna.

Pat is preceded in death by his parents; one son, Douglas Miller; one brother, Glenn Miller and one sister, Beverly Hill.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Central Lakes College (CLC), Staples and the Staples Community Center in Pat’s memory.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w2c A00006B2022JN05

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

Staples Alliance

1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
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
Sunlight (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

firstcongourccstaples@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
Pastor Chris Mathiason
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.....
Pastor Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Parochial Vicar, Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Thursday and Friday.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday.....8:30 a.m.

Seventh Day Adventist

421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship.....9:30 am.
Sabbath School.....10:45 a.m.

Thomastown Covenant

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

Trinity Lutheran

1000 4th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2372
Rev. Robin Collins
Sunday Divine Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Bible Class.....10:30 a.m.

United Methodist

310 5th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2248
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)
Sunday School (for grades K-12 and adults)
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Aldrich

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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
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Pastor Carl Larson
Pastor Chris Mathiason
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
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Associate Pastor: Joe Reigstad
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YouTube Channel.....10:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Community Meal.....5:30 p.m.
Family Night.....6:00 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 and 10:30 a.m.
facebook live.....9 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Youth Group 6:00-8:00 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. Aaron Kuhn
Parochial Vicar, Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Tuesday.....6:30 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
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.

Hewitt

Church of the Nazarene

114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN
218-924-2028
Pastor Wayne Haffert
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 James Middendorf, 320-260-4950
Sunday Service.....9:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Seeds of Hope.....7:00 p.m.

Leaf River Township

The Old Country Church
Leaf River Twp., Wadena County Rd. 6
Info. 218-837-5690
Sunday Service 10 a.m.

Mark Weishalla

Mark Allen Weishalla, 65, of Brooklyn Park, passed away December 20, 2021, at his home.

A Memorial Mass was held Dec. 27 at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Brooklyn Center.

A private family burial will take place at a later date

Mark was born April 18, 1956 to Thomas and Barbara (Vasecka) Weishalla in Wadena. His youth was spent on the farm southeast of Staples. He attended Sacred Heart Catholic School and graduated from Staples High School in 1974.

Mark enjoyed a fruitful career working as a machinist and engineer using his skills to design and make parts for a variety of industries. He enjoyed cheering for many Minnesota sports teams and especially loved the Minnesota Vikings. He was a caring and supportive father and friend that truly loved those around him.

He is survived by one son, Brett (Julie) Weishalla and one daughter, Tanya (Eric) Bullerman; mother, Barbara Peterson and stepfather Richard Peterson; five brothers, Gary (Kristine), Jeffrey (Heidi), Roger (Judy), Randy (Sue) and Tom Weishalla; two sisters,



Suzanne (Daniel) Smith and Laurie (Jerry) Imdieke; five step brothers, Ricky, Dale (Connie), Raymond (Maurene), Paul (Dawn) and Peter Peterson; eight grandchildren, Macy, Frank, Anna, Julia, Kylie, Emma, Kate and Sophia; one great granddaughter, Jacy and many uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father in 1969; one brother, Steven in 1958; grandparents, Bob and Susie Weishalla, C. J. Vasecka, Fern and Mike Swenson and Selmer and Ida Peterson.

Arrangments were by Dingmann Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Adrian.

w2c A00006B2022JN05

Rudolph Bjerga, Sr.

Rudolph “Rudy” A. Bjerga, Sr., 79, of Staples, passed away unexpectedly December 26, 2021, at Lakewood Health System Hospital, Staples.

Services were held January 3, 2022, at the Motley Free Methodist Church

Interment was at the Motley Public Cemetery.

Rudy was born July 22, 1942, to Mikkell and Leona (Quade) Bjerga. He grew up on a farm north of Motley. He married Joan Kowalski on September 24, 1960. They moved to the Twin Cities where he worked for Gateway Transportation for nearly 20 years. They moved back to Motley and purchased their farm and the Friendly Inn. He started Bjerga Construction and hauled cattle for Tri-County Livestock in Motley. He was the Villard Township Supervisor for 30 years, was on the Todd County Planning and Zoning Board and was the state Fire Warden for the DNR. Rudy enjoyed visiting with people at the Friendly Inn over the years. He always loved a good party. He enjoyed hanging out at his son’s pole barns with their friends to find out



the local news. He would always say he would never retire and he was active every day until he passed.

Rudy is survived by his loving wife, Joan, of 61 years; two daughters, Laurie (Mike) Craft and Gloria (Barry) Jansson; two sons, Rudy (Mary) Bjerga, Jr. and Joey (Lorrie) Bjerga; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren and two brothers, Mike (Judy) Bjerga and Dale (Lorna) Bjerga.

He is preceded in death by his parents and one grandson, Ryan Jansson.

Arrangements were by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w2c A00006B2022JN05

The Scriptures and Songs that Celebrate Children

Pastor Barry Klein, Staples Church of Christ

“The Men in My Little Girl’s Life” by Mary Candy, Eddie Dean and Gloria Shayne (sung by Mike Douglas), “Crayon Box Song,” “Broken Pieces” by Steve and Annie Chapman, “This Child We Dedicate to Thee,” “Jesus Will Bless The Little Ones” by Hadlor Lillenas, “Jesus Loves the Little Children,” “Childlike Faith” by Larnelle Harris and “Missing Person” by Michael W. Smith are just a few among so many songs that reflect on children and that call us adults to both care for them and re-enter child-like faith in God.

It is both fascinating and tragic that, as adults, we have to rediscover what we have lost... what we once had in childlike perceptions of reality. Of course, we know that there is a world of difference between being “childlike” and being “childish.” Regretfully, all too often, the latter still raises its head in my adult life.

I have a beautiful counted cross stitch rendition of Matthew 19:13-15 hanging on my study wall. It was given to me by one of our dear wid-

ows in our church family. I can’t even comprehend how many hours she put in that work of art. But I am reminded often by looking at it of those beloved words in that Scripture when we hear Jesus say, “Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God heaven belongs to such as these.” In their beautiful innocent, trusting perspective, no wonder Jesus calls us to “become like them” in our walk with Him.

I believe I have heard both Brennan Manning and Dick McGuire share their picture of heaven as Jesus’ followers becoming five-year-olds again. Jesus has that kind of transforming power. He certainly has that kind of love for children.

May we become a newly transformed generation that recommits to treasuring, caring for and protecting children from conception on. May we thank our parents, as we can, for being God’s vessel’s of giving each of us life. And may we all do some deep soul searching to “become like children” again.

The Staples area Church Directory is sponsored by these businesses:

Longbella Drug Store

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

Ernie’s Food Market

Groceries - Gas - Convenience - more
Staples, MN 218-894-1072

Staples Veterinary Clinic

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

Mid-Central National Bank

Fully Insured to \$250,000
Staples, MN 218-894-3900

Central Building Supply

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

Staples World

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

Tower Pizza

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

Staples True Value

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Open 7 days a week
Staples, MN 218-894-3263

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

***To update your church information or to advertise on the Church Directory, call 218-894-1112 for Jan or email:

jwinter@staplesworld.com. Please continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message or advertisement to: jwinter@staplesworld.com



Outside shooting

Chandler Braith puts up a shot in a game earlier this season.

Boys pick up tournament win

The Staples-Motley boys basketball team lost their first game in a holiday tournament at Walker, but came back the next day to win their second game. The Cardinals lost 70-56 against Warren-Alvarado-Oslo in the opening round on Dec. 29. On Dec. 30, they beat Hill City 76-50. Against Hill City, the Cardinals took a 29-23 half-time lead and expanded it with five baskets by Chan-

dlar Braith in the second half and six made shots by Isaiah Schultz, including four three point shots. Schultz finished the game with 28 points

Team results
Staples-Motley 76, Hill City 50
Scoring: Isaiah Schultz 28, Chandler Braith 15, Sivert Klefsaas 12, Josh Schimpp 9, Dom Gomez 7, Luke Brownell 2, Dakota Hennigar 2, Maddea Roberts 1

A lion-like start to winter, with more snow than last year

“Be careful what you wish for” is familiar advice. Those of us who welcome a good old fashioned snow-storm had our wish granted just after Christmas. Snow-fall totals for that event in Central and Northern Minnesota ranged upwards of 10 to 15 inches, even more in some places. The counterpoint to its picturesque Currier-and-Ives effects was the challenge of difficult driving conditions, and mega snow removal in the aftermath. But to that subset of Minnesotans who call themselves “snow lover,” it was something to both revel in and take in stride, and left no doubt that the transition to winter is complete.

Over much of the state there is already as much or more snow than accumulated in the winter of 2020-2021. The post-Christmas snowstorm was not the first, so the above numbers can in many places be bumped up by several inches. As this is being written the weather forecast is for still more snow. If you’re a retailer who sells snowblowers, snowmobiles, skis, or snowshoes, this could be a banner winter!

But winter has more than one dimension, and by New Year’s Day that other familiar aspect - numbing cold - had also made an appearance. There was no need to travel to the counties along the Canadian border to find Arctic-like conditions. Even as far south as the geographical



Mike Rahn

center of Minnesota, temperatures plummeted to as low as minus 30 degrees.

Wintry conditions can lead to very different things, not only for humans but also for our wildlife neighbors. Neighbors like white-tail deer, including the band of a half dozen or more that regularly amble across our property during pre-dawn, nighttime and evening hours. Snow and cold are not inevitably threatening to deer. But too much in combination can be.

Wildlife management agencies in the snowbelt states, like the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Section of Wildlife, use a yardstick - literally - to help them measure the severity of a winter for deer. Most wildlife managers call this a winter severity index, or WSI for short. The WSI involves a little math, combining snow depth and sub-zero temperature readings. Every day with an air temperature of zero or below is worth a point. Every day with a snow depth of 15 inches or greater is also worth a point. Together they add up to the WSI.

The effect of sub-zero temperatures on deer and other wildlife needs little explanation. At such temperatures food consumed is burned up more rapidly to maintain body heat. As a result, available winter food supplies can be exhausted more rapidly, and more time must be spent feeding and exposed to the elements.

The effect of deep snow on deer is also well known. Travel between feeding and bedding areas becomes more difficult and energy consuming. Eventually snow depth may lead deer to “yard up” near a food supply in order to limit the need to travel. If deer remain confined like this long enough

they may exhaust their food supply, become weakened, and either starve or be more susceptible to predation, most commonly from wolves.

Over the course of a winter the points for days of deep snow and the points for days of sub-zero temperature are tallied. Unlike basketball or football, this is a game where low score wins. Based on historical records and experience, wildlife managers have a pretty good idea what WSI score is likely to mean dire things for deer. This is especially true in the forested regions of Minnesota.

According to the Minnesota DNR, a WSI score of 50 or lower is considered a mild winter. Between 50 and 120 points is considered moderate. Above 120 is a severe winter. But even if deer do not succumb directly to winter-caused starvation, or to becoming easier targets for predators, they may emerge from winter in weakened condition. This in turn can lead to poor reproduction; meaning stillborn fawns, or fawns born in weakened condition with poorer prospects of survival.

Last year, the winter of 2020-2021, was more lamb-like than lion - notwithstanding an extended February cold snap - with very low snow totals over much of Central and Northern Minnesota. Cold temperatures alone can be handled very well by the hardy whitetail. This year we’re starting out with snow depths that are at, or near, the depth at which the count begins. Those who care about our deer will be hoping that the lion of early winter will give way to the lamb sooner rather than later.

It’s also sometimes said that “it’s an ill wind that

blows no good.” What might be bad for one may be good for another. Something that can be bad for deer - deep snow - can be a godsend for another creature that inhabits the same northern woodlands: the ruffed grouse. To many Minnesota upland bird hunters the ruffed grouse is the state’s premier game bird, no slight intended for the tenacious and colorful pheasant, or the ubiquitous wild turkey.

The deep snow that can impede the travels of white-tail deer makes a safe and snug burrow for the ruffed grouse. Under the snow the temperature rarely drops below 20 degrees above zero, though the open air above may be far colder. Leaving its snow burrow mostly just to feed on aspen buds or other forage, a ruffed grouse is far less available to predators - like hawks, owls, or foxes - than if snow is sparse and the bird remains exposed for longer periods of time.

Winter’s blessings and curses affect other creatures, too. The pheasant does better with less snow to cover food supplies and fill up the cattail swamps where they find winter refuge. The snowshoe hare, with its large feet and thick and camouflaged winter coat, is perfectly adapted to deep snow and cold. The snowmobiler, the skier, and the snowshoe trekker couldn’t be more delighted with snow in abundance, while the ice fisherman bemoans heavy snow before full ice depth, which can make a lake surface slushy and difficult to navigate.

Not to mention those of us with septic systems that froze due to last winter’s sparse snows, but are now covered with a generous blanket of fluffy white insulation.

Todd County hears road development concerns

by Karin L. Nauber
karin@inhnews.com

Doug Kaiser from Leslie Township addressed the commissioners at their regular meeting on December 10 (held late because of the commissioner’s attendance at the Association of Minnesota Counties held earlier in the week).

Kaiser was talking about the fact that infrastructure needs to be addressed when creating these new developments especially the roads, right of ways and who will be responsible for maintaining them.

Kaiser said they are not against development, but he did not believe it was the town board’s responsibility to put in new roads. It was the responsibility of the developer to get the new roads up to county standards.

He expressed concerns with more traffic and more runoff and making sure the road would be able to handle these things.

Commissioner Randy Neumann said that the townships don’t always have the time between the Planning Commission Meeting and the notification that a development is being planned.

He said they need to have their comments in writing before the Planning Commission Meeting.

Kaiser said that any new development should have a publicly maintained road.

Commissioner David Kircher asked if it would require a modification to

the original plan.

Planning and Zoning Director Adam Ossefoort said that it could be part of the application process for townships to have their input.

This development will be discussed at the next meeting of the commissioners.

In other business

- Approved Stacie Wolbeck to fill the Relative Search Child Services Specialist position.
- Approved the hire of Nathan Przybilla for the full-time road deputy position with a start date pending.
- Accepted the resignation of Jeremy Clasemann as of January 3, 2022.
- Approved a gambling permit for the Osakis Lake Association to hold gambling activities at Head of the Lakes Resort in Leslie Township effective January 1, 2022 until revoked or otherwise canceled as provided by law.
- Adopted a resolution designating polling places for the county absentee precinct, mail ballot precincts, and special election precincts within Todd County for the 2022 election year as the Todd County Auditor/Treasurer’s Office.
- Approved a resolution for the re-appointment of a five-year term for Eva Buhl to the Todd County Housing and Rehabilitation Authority Board starting September 18, 2021.
- Approved the contract with Peters Law Office for Public Defender services in Todd County for 2022. There

was no change.

- Todd County became a member of the South Country Health Alliance as of January 1, 2007 and further resolved to withdraw from said alliance as of December 31, 2019.
- As part of the exiting terms, capital payments with interest are scheduled to be returned to Todd County.
- The second installment payment of interest has been receipted into the Human Services and Community Health (HHS) Funds per audit standards.
- The Finance Committee recommends transferring these funds to the general fund to assist with the budgetary essentials of the county.
- It was approved in the amount of \$82,837.
- After a lengthy presentation the board authorized the distribution and publication of legal notices in the Osakis Anchor publication at a rate of \$3.50 per column inch for the 2022 calendar year.
- This publication will be a part of the Long Prairie Leader and will run two times a month. Leader Editor Jason Brown said they have almost reached their revenue needs to be able to start the publication in January 2022.
- Approved the 2022 agreement for prosecution services with the cities of Grey Eagle, Clarissa, Eagle Bend, Bertha, and Hewitt.
- Authorized an agreement between Todd County and Stearns County to “trade” state funding from

Stearns for federal funds from Todd County to benefit both county’s needs in the amount of \$451,524.

- Approved the final payment of \$190,849 to Knife River Corporation for work on various routes throughout the county. With this final payment, a total of \$3,816,898 was paid for these projects.
- Acting as Ditch Authority, the board approved a Hold Harmless Agreement (HHA) petition from Roger Stender and Kyle Pesta, to clean approximately 2,800 feet of Lateral 3 on County Ditch 22 and to replace a failing private crossing in Iona Township, Section 19. The project will be done at their own expense.
- Approved the request for a new skid steer from Farm-Rite Equipment for a total after trade of \$28,000. This is for the facilities committee.
- Approved the bid from Arnzen Construction for the construction of an HHS viewing room for \$12,202.46.
- With Neumann opposed, the board approved changes to section 6.04C to include Event Centers and include a definition in the ordinance for an Event Center.
- Approved the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Mississippi-Brainerd Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and assigned Commissioner David Kircher as a policy committee member and Commissioner Barb Becker as the alternate.
- Approved the purchase of a 2022 Ram 1500 in the amount of \$32,431 from

Dodge of Burnsville via the state bid for the Todd Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

- Adopted the 2022 county budget as presented.
- Approved a resolution to adopt the final 2022 County Levy at \$18,782,657 less program aids of \$1,561,707 therefore certifying the Final 2022 Local Levy at \$17,220,950. This was an increase of 3.65 percent. See illustration.
- On March 11, 2021 the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law which established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program.
- Todd County has applied for and been awarded a total of \$4,790,693 of the ARPA/SLFRF funds which will be received in two tranches with the first tranche received on September 30, 2021.
- The board approved an ARPA-SLFRF Workplan Policy which has been derived to solidify procedures for the use of the ARPA/SLFRF funds and the parameters that the county leaders should reference to for eligibility and reporting requirements of this funding opportunity.
- Approved the renewal contract for Rural MN CEP to provide Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFTP) and Diversionary Work Program (DWP) Employment Services at a cost of \$195,971.
- Approved a resolution for the 2022 Non-Union Employee/Appointed Officials Salaries.

This includes a 2.5 percent general increase effective the first full pay period worked in January, 2022, pay date January 26, 2022, and a 3 percent step increase effective the first full pay period worked in July 2022, and pay date July 27, 2022 for eligible staff.

Staff currently over the maximum of the salary grid shall receive a 1.25 percent (one-half general increase) effective the first full pay period worked in January, 2022 pay date January 26, 2022 in accordance with county policy.

- The Todd County Negotiations Team met with the HHS Union and Public Works Union and the commissioners have approved a tentative agreement.

Highlights of the agreement include a change to health insurance coverage to “Smart Plans” with the elimination of the low deductible plan in 2023, the county will continue having strong premium cost-sharing.

There will be a 2.5 percent general wage increase for 2022, 2023 and 2024, as well as a change to the MSRS contribution for employees hired on or after January 1, 2022.

- The board held two closed sessions. First for further labor negotiation strategy and second for the performance evaluation of Coordinator Chris Pelzer.

After the regular session, the board also held a work session.

Todd County Board of Commissioners

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS November 2, 2021

Call to Order

BYRON TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Bryron Township will meet the second Tuesday of every month starting January 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will move to the following week.

Becky Rassler, Clerk
Byron Township

2pnc

NOTICE MAY TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

The May Township regular board meeting will be held January 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the May Town Hall.

The re-organizational meeting will be held January 31, 7:00 p.m., May Town Hall.

Regular meeting will be held February 7, 7:00 p.m., May Town Hall.

Bianca Wyffels, Clerk
May Township

2pnc

CITY OF STAPLES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Staples will conduct a public hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at the Staples Government Center located at 122 6th St NE, Staples to receive public input, consider and make a recommendation to the City Council regarding a proposed amendment to Section 109-120 of the Zoning Code related to residing in recreation vehicles or campers on residential lots.

All interested persons are invited to attend the hearing and be heard on this matter or submit written comments to the City Clerk prior to the hearing. For a copy of the proposed amendment, contact City Hall at 218-894-2550.

Dated: December 29, 2021

Tara Greer, City Clerk

2pnc

to order by Chairperson Becker. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Approval of Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Kneisl, the following motions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2021 as presented.

To accept the resignation of Kevin Brown, Resource Conservationist-Ag as of 10/21/2021.

To approve Rocio Rivera to fill the open Support Enforcement Aide position starting 11/07/2021.

To approve Keyandra Harren to fill the open Support Enforcement Aide position, start TBD.

To hire Traci Becker, FT Correctional Officer, start date pending.

Auditor-Treasurer

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Kneisl, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the October 20-21 Auditor Warrants num-

ber (ACH) 901787 through 901873 in the amount of \$4,929,952.54, (Manual) 661 through 668 in the amount of \$684,035.37 and (Regular) 238424 through 238441 in the amount of \$1,465,091.75 for a total of \$7,079,079.66.

On motion by Neumann and seconded by Kircher, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 401562 through 401583 in the amount of \$365,497.73 and (Regular) 55318 through 55354 in the amount of \$30 049.16 for a total of \$95,546.89.

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Erickson, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 802129 through 802144 and (Regular) 708322 through 708353 for a total amount of \$23,413.51.

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous Roll Call vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 600491 through 600498 and (Regular) 516593 through 516609 for a total amount of \$83,492.35.

County Ditch/Ag Inspector

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Kircher, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT – DITCH MAINTENANCE – COUNTY DITCH 27

WHEREAS, Dave Harren is requesting to maintain approximately 2,034 feet of CD27 that is located on parcel 28-0015001. A Hold Harmless Agreement has been signed and submitted to the Ditch Authority; and,

WHEREAS, an onsite inspection has been done, and,

WHEREAS, applicant is allowed to maintain the drainage ditch to the original width, depth and grade. An improvement by lowering or widening the ditch bottom is not allowed. Sediment and vegetation can only be removed to the extent of the original ditch bottom elevation. Spoil must be side cast and leveled, staying within 16.5 feet of the ditch, or moved to an approved upland site.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Ditch Authority gives permission to Dave Harren to maintain approximately 2,034 feet of CD27 that is located on parcel 28-0015001, Wykeham Twp. Section 17. He will do this project on his own property, at his own expense.

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Neumann, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Acting as Ditch Authority, acknowledge receipt of a Hold Harmless Agreement petition from Roger Stender and

Kyle Pesta, to clean part of County Ditch 22 on parcels 13-0018500 and 13-0018600 in Iona Twp. Section 19.

Solid Waste

On motion by Kneisl and seconded by Erickson, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING MARKET PRICE FOR THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX

WHEREAS, the solid waste management tax requires political subdivisions to identify by resolution a market price of the political subdivision; and Subsidizes the cost of service at a facility; and;

WHEREAS, the political subdivision will be liable for the solid waste management tax based only on the market price amount identified through this resolution, and;

WHEREAS, the market price is identified in the state statutes as the "lowest price available in the area" and;

WHEREAS, Todd County has performed research to identify the lowest price available in the area;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the County of Todd declares a market price of \$79 per ton at the Morrison County Landfill.

Administration

On motion by Kircher and seconded by Erickson, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

ADOPTION OF CHANGES TO TODD COUNTY PERSONNEL POLICY

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners has recognized a need for strong, up to date personnel policy; and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Board of Commissioners and policies subcommittee have had an opportunity to review the policy revisions put forth in Article III, Section 3.03 (g) of the Personnel Policy and find the implementation to be in the best interest of the sound administration of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners adopts the attached changes to the Todd County Personnel Policy and directs the County Coordinator to begin administration of said policy as of November 2, 2021 and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is understood that this Resolution replaces and supersedes all prior County Board actions, oral or written, relating to the subject matter hereof.

Discussion was held regarding Community Solar Energy Systems/Solar Farms in Todd County (non-residential). Research will continue on this topic for return to Work Session for further discussion.

Closed Session

Chair Becker closed the session at 9:26 a.m. pursuant to MN Statute §13D.03 to consider strategies for labor negotiations.

Chair Becker reopened the session at 9:54 a.m.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer reported that elections are being held (today) that affect portions of Todd County Voters which include Upsala, Sauk Centre, Osakis and Long Prairie/Grey Eagle School Districts.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported that there was a special Todd County Development Corporation meeting on November 1, 2021 to discuss broadband with area Legislators and Commissioners.

County Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Neumann reported on a meeting at Miller's Bay on Lake Osakis attended by numerous State, County and Local Officials with landowners to discuss the sludge and weed concerns on this lake.

Recess

On motion by Erickson and seconded by Neumann,

the meeting was adjourned for the month of November, 2021.

AUDITOR WARRANTS

Vendor Name.....	\$ Amount
LONG PRAIRIE SANI.....	\$4,776.75
MID CENTRAL	
NATIONAL BANK.....	81,527.00
NORTH COUNTRY	
CHEV BUICK GMC.....	38,896.48
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNI.	
SOLID WASTE AUTH.....	82,386.00
VERIZON.....	4,884.62
YOUNG/CAREY.....	13,700.00
20 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	9,032.81
COUNTIES PROVIDING	
TECHNOLOGY.....	5,417.56
COUNTRYSIDE REST.....	5,457.50
FLEET SERVICES/	
WEX BANK.....	7,991.93
HARVEY/JANET.....	9,265.00
KNOW INK.....	8,125.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL CO.....	4,178.82
MN DEPT OF FINANCE.....	8,767.00
MORRISON COUNTY.....	36,574.54
NIEMEYER/NORMA.....	5,333.75
NORTHERN BUSINESS	
PRODUCTS.....	3,262.78
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A. ...	5,620.00
REGENTS OF THE	
UNIV OF MN.....	36,946.75
SHIRLEY'S GAS &	
GROCERIES INC.....	4,080.36
STAPLES ADVANTAGE.....	3,006.54
STATE OF MINN.....	3,465.00
STEARNS CTY	
HWY DEPT.....	180,748.41
52 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	19,109.42
CARD SERVICES	
COBORNS.....	3,168.87
CATHOLIC CHARITIES	
ST PAUL & MPLS.....	41,509.00
CENTRA CARE.....	10,983.33
CITY OF GREY EAGLE.....	448,877.01
EVANS/RANDOLPH.....	7,500.00
KOEHN/JEFF.....	2,116.76
LEGAL INTERPRETING	
SERVICES.....	2,392.50
MCCC, MI33.....	5,571.66
MEYER/EUGENE and	
CATHERINE.....	7,437.50
MINNESOTA POWER	
& LIGHT.....	14,334.99
RANDT/CHARLES and	
LINDA.....	6,431.49
TODD COUNTY MIS	
DEPT.....	2,000.00
VOYANT COMMS, LLC.....	3,516.47
41 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	14,548.11
ANOKA CO GOV'T CENTER.....	
.....	8,375.00
CENTERPOINT ENERGY.....	2,129.80
GALLAGHER BENEFIT	
SERVICES INC.....	2,000.00
GOLDEN SHOVEL AG.....	5,700.00
PRO TINT WINDOWS	
FILMS.....	2,355.00
STEP.....	22,077.50
30 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	14,501.08
BIG SWAN LAKE	
IMPROVEMENT DIST.....	5,026.74
CITY OF BERTHA.....	100,331.32
CITY OF BROWERVILLE.....	104,961.95
CITY OF BURTRUM.....	10,767.52
CITY OF CLARISSA.....	87,993.08
CITY OF EAGLE BEND.....	133,319.09
CITY OF GREY EAGLE.....	47,017.17
CITY OF HEWITT.....	24,295.94
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE.....	577,535.96
CITY OF OSAKIS.....	91,606.46
CITY OF STAPLES.....	419,743.09
CITY OF WEST UNION.....	6,329.71
REGION V DEVELOPMT	
COMMISSION.....	9,842.26
SAUK RIVER WATER	
SHED DISTRICT.....	36,235.05
SCHOOL DISTRICT 213.....	317,590.83
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2170.....	314,741.20
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2753.....	681,448.56
SCHOOL DISTRICT 486.....	154,020.70
SCHOOL DISTRICT 740.....	44,211.56
SCHOOL DISTRICT 743.....	323,844.37
SCHOOL DISTRICT 786.....	205,814.36
SCHOOL DISTRICT 786-	
DEBT DIST 86.....	5,073.95
SCHOOL DISTRICT 787.....	314,852.53
SCHOOL DISTRICT 787-	
DEBT DIST 87.....	21,948.08
SCHOOL DISTRICT 818.....	13,159.89
TOWN OF BARTLETT.....	20,948.51
TOWN OF BERTHA.....	16,016.83
TOWN OF BIRCHDALE.....	53,193.02
TOWN OF BRUCE.....	78,842.66
TOWN OF BURLENE.....	18,189.65
TOWN OF	
BURNHAMVILLE.....	53,734.65
TOWN OF	
EAGLE VALLEY.....	39,652.67
TOWN OF FAWN LAKE.....	39,436.54
TOWN OF GERMANIA.....	17,008.68
TOWN OF GORDON.....	87,079.84
TOWN OF GREY EAGLE.....	80,411.45
TOWN OF HARTFORD.....	41,252.49
TOWN OF IONA.....	15,442.17
TOWN OF KANDOTA.....	37,960.13
TOWN OF LESLIE.....	66,687.64
TOWN OF LITTLE ELK.....	22,660.61
TOWN OF LITTLE SAUK.....	44,200.89
TOWN OF LONG PRAIRIE.....	44,967.74
TOWN OF MORAN.....	32,789.45
TOWN OF REYNOLDS.....	20,203.24
TOWN OF	
ROUND PRAIRIE.....	37,227.50
TOWN OF STAPLES.....	64,011.18
TOWN OF	
STOWE PRAIRIE.....	27,251.41
TOWN OF	
TURTLE CREEK.....	26,468.20
TOWN OF VILLARD.....	49,685.03
TOWN OF WARD.....	29,958.28
TOWN OF WEST UNION.....	38,968.79
TOWN OF WYKEHAM.....	24,879.85
5 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	4,123.73
MN DEPT OF REVENUE.....	88,364.27
MN DEPT OF REVENUE.....	2,194.74
US BANK.....	6,257.35
MN DEPT OF REVENUE.....	585,368.77
4 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	1,850.24
Total.....	\$7,079,079.66

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

Vendor Name.....	\$ Amount
BOLTON & MENK, INC.....	3,994.00
CENTRAL APPLICATORS	
INC.....	13,713.85
MIDSTATES EQUIP	
AND SUPPLY.....	4,877.95
MORRISON CO	
PUBLIC HEALTH SERV.....	7,901.48
RINKE-NOONAN	
CORP LTD.....	3,737.50
STREICHER'S.....	8,536.19
TRUENORTH STEEL.....	33,904.50
WOLTERS BODY SHOP.....	2,898.32
51 PAYMENTS LESS	
THAN \$2,000.....	15,983.10
Total.....	\$95,546.89

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS

Vendor Name.....	\$ Amount
DHS- SWIFT.....	\$6,933.67
PERISH/ALAN.....	2,421.79
SHI CORP.....	4,728.00
45 PAYMENTS LESS	

See TCC on page 9a

City of Staples Summary Budget 2022

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2022 budget information concerning the City of Staples to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. Sec. 471.6965. This budget is not complete: The complete budget may be examined at City Hall, 122 6th St NE. The City Council approved the budget on December 14, 2021.

Table 1
Governmental Funds 2022 Adopted Budget

	2020 Budget	2021 Adopted	2022 Adopted
Budgeted Governmental Funds			
Revenues			
Property taxes	\$ 997,452	\$ 1,009,728	\$ 1,019,267
All other taxes	652,810	668,000	725,000
Special assessments	96,740	88,090	89,132
Licenses and permits	77,100	79,565	86,460
Intergovernmental revenues			
Federal	612,000	370,312	180,960
State	1,494,630	1,314,971	1,433,996
County	-	-	-
Other Local Units	-	-	100,000
Charges for services	268,440	294,980	429,382
Fines and forfeits	22,000	22,000	22,000
Interest on investments	76,665	37,870	35,570
Miscellaneous	99,200	112,910	81,305
Total Revenues	\$ 4,397,037	\$ 3,998,426	\$ 4,203,072
Other Financing Sources			
Proceeds from borrowing	-	-	-
Transfers from other funds	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
Proceeds from sale of capital assets			
Expenditures			
Current:			
General Government	\$ 436,312	\$ 445,741	\$ 513,704
Public Safety	1,075,040	1,093,072	1,207,603
Streets and Highways	601,440	615,363	584,620
Culture and Recreation	146,680	154,598	183,476
Economic Development	176,490	160,475	183,440
Miscellaneous	371,640	418,640	496,599
Total Current Expenditures	2,807,602	2,887,889	3,169,442
Debt Service - Principal	505,000	511,000	559,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	211,405	192,853	169,594
Capital Outlay	1,140,300	560,249	429,500
Total Expenditures	\$ 4,664,307	\$ 4,151,991	\$ 4,327,536
Other Financing Uses			
Transfers to Other Funds	-	-	-
Debt refinancing			
Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	\$ (207,270)	\$ (93,565)	\$ (64,464)
Property Tax Levy Required to Fund the 2022 Budget	\$ 997,452	\$ 1,009,728	\$ 1,019,267

CITY OF STAPLES Table 2
Enterprise Funds 2022 Adopted Budget

	Community Center	Sewer	Water	Electric	2022 Adopted Budget	2021 Adopted Budget	2020 Actual
Operating Revenues							
Charges for services	\$ 98,600	\$ 749,070	\$ 608,000	\$ 2,948,500	\$ 4,404,170	\$ 4,374,300	\$ 4,259,265
Other operating revenue	-	104,400	51,206	277,525	433,131	421,875	326,158
Operating Expenses							
Personal Services	191,330	206,237	229,600	624,085	1,251,252	1,200,479	1,066,939
Contractual Services	65,410	79,950	79,300	308,175	532,835	512,105	258,084
Supplies	18,000	63,200	55,900	92,800	229,900	272,250	415,619
Purchase of energy	-	-	-	1,776,945	1,776,945	1,742,103	1,652,583
Heat, Light, Power	38,500	75,000	35,000	10,850	159,350	158,190	163,759
Depreciation/Capital Outlay	45,000	19,000	60,000	230,000	354,000	8,726,100	425,236
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 358,240	\$ 443,387	\$ 459,800	\$ 3,042,855	\$ 4,304,282	\$ 12,611,227	\$ 3,982,220
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (259,640)	\$ 410,083	\$ 199,406	\$ 183,170	\$ 533,019	\$ (7,815,052)	\$ 603,203
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)							
Property Taxes	51,233	-	-	-	51,233	49,310	42,990
Intergovernmental	129,064	-	-	-	129,064	127,460	126,400
Interest Earnings	2,000	1,000	6,000	34,450	43,450	43,450	64,484
Miscellaneous revenue	4,500	5,000	-	24,500	34,000	2,997,850	103,918
Operating grants and contributions	-	-	-	-	-	5,090,000	3,613,244
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	(262,030)	(157,358)	(175,552)	(594,940)	(497,103)	(64,030)
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	186,797	(256,030)	(151,358)	(116,602)	(337,193)	7,810,967	3,887,006
Income (Loss) Before Operating Transfers	(72,843)	154,053	48,048	66,568	195,826	(4,085)	4,490,209
Operating Transfers In (Out)	-	-	(20,000)	(40,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(22,030)
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (72,843)	\$ 154,053	\$ 28,048	\$ 26,568	\$ 135,826	\$ (64,085)	\$ 4,468,179



SERVICES & EMPLOYMENT

205

Help Wanted

NOW HIRING: Multiple positions available. Good pay. Stop in for an application or send resume to Bjerga Feeds, PO Box 286, Motley, MN 56466. 49tfc

208
Storage
209

FOR RENT

Japke's North 8th Street
Mini Storage, 894-1551
6x20, 10x12, 10x20, 10x24

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Freshwater Education District is seeking a full-time physical therapist beginning the 2022-2023 school year. The successful candidate will have experience and/or interest in working with students with special needs in the school setting and in early intervention settings. The position includes summer hours and hours outside of the typical school day at times.
Initial Review of Applications: Noon on January 21, 2022

Please send Letter of Interest, Resume' and 3 Letters of Recommendation to:
Lori Murdock, Director of Special Education
Freshwater Education District
2222 Industrial Drive, Wadena, MN 56482
218-631-3505, ext. 1042 - lmurdock@fed.k12.mn.us

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New: \$75 Renewal \$55
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Call 218-371-2151

Your major appliance parts source. Parts for all major brands. One day service, Staples True Value, Staples. 218-894-3263. 26tfc

FRONTIER TOWNHOMES
FOR RENTAL INFO CALL
218-296-5031
Under new ownership

We are accepting applications for 2 and 3 bedroom townhomes in Staples, a community you can get attached to. Rent based on income. Now professionally managed by

BRUTGER
EQUITIES, INC.
Income guidelines apply.

WANTED TO BUY

501

Miscellaneous
JUNK CARS & TRUCKS.
218-639-5509. 2-3c

REAL ESTATE

602

Apartments for Rent

STAPLES: Downtown, 1 - 2 bdrm., recently remodeled, NO pets, non smoking, 218-894-3108. 6tfc

EASTWOOD APARTMENTS

in Motley MN.
is now accepting applications for FUTURE 2-3 bedroom apartments
Laundry facilities available on site.
garage included with apartment. All utilities paid.
Applications are available at:
956 Hwy 10 S., Motley
For information and qualifications contact Nicole at 218-751-6881
An Equal Housing Opportunity

...HELP WANTED...

SouthSide Mini Mart, Convenience Store Cashier
Part-time, must be 18 years or older.

QUALIFICATIONS: The ability to multi-task and work with the general public. Handle cash, credit and checks, making change and counting money back to the customer. Follow the work schedule when posted.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Stocking/cleaning/empty trash on your shift. Resolve customer concerns, involve store owner when appropriate. Shovel snow and salt where needed in the winter months.
Stop in and fill out an application at 219 6th Street, Staples, MN



DON'T FORGET!!!!

The deadline for classified ads, display ads, garage sale ads, letters to the editor and news items for the Staples World is:

Friday, noon

Todd County Commissioners Minutes

TCC continued from page 8a

THAN \$2,000.....9,330.05
Total\$23,413.51

Vendor Name.....
\$ Amount
CARLSON/BARBARA J.....\$3,400.00
CENTRAL MN MENTAL
HLTH CTR 2,000.00
DHS - MSOP - MN SEX
OFFENDER PROGRAM.....6,210.00
DHS - ST PETER RTC - 472.....2,697.00
LUTHERAN SOCIAL
SERV. OF MN-ST PAUL.....11,464.80
NORTH HOMES
CHILDREN & FAMILY
SRVS 9,483.30
NORTHERN PINES
MENTAL HLTH CTR INC.16,764.50
WEST CENTRAL REG
JUVENILE CTR 20,249.00
PAYMENTS LESS
THAN \$2,000 11,223.75
Total\$83,492.35

On a motion by Kircher and seconded by Neu-

mann, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held November 2, 2021 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on November 16, 2021.

Witness my hand and seal:

Barbara Becker,
Todd County Board
Chairperson

Denise Gaida,
Todd County
Auditor-Treasurer

2pnc

Classifieds GET THE JOB DONE!
Buy • Sell • Trade • Rent • Hire

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SERVICE DIRECTORY

Mixed Firewood
By the bundle or by the truckload. 8 foot lengths or processed
Enberg Logging
218-352-6175

Small Engine Repair
Authorized.....
Stihl, MTD, Murray, Scag, Briggs & Stratton, Poulan
Sales-Service-Repair
Staples Ace Hardware
218-894-1080

PAUL DRAKE TREE SERVICE
SINCE 1978
•General •Lot Clearing
•Storm Damage Clean Up
•Stump Grinding •Brushing
•55 ft. Bucket Truck
218-894-2871

H&R
Electric of Staples
Zach Hanson 218-296-1285 • Mike Rollins 218-296-2461
hrelectricofstaples@yahoo.com
Licensed, Bonded & Insured • Over 30 years experience

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PLUMBING & HEATING
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• HEATING
• AIR CONDITIONING
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• NEW CONSTRUCTION
• REMODEL
• SERVICE
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Clayton Hageman
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24 Hour Emergency Service

LPS Inc.
Long Prairie Sanitation
Long Prairie, MN
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Thomas H. Sellnow*
sellnowt@sellnowlaw.com
Jason R. Sellnow
sellnowj@sellnowlaw.com
218-894-4618 • 133 4th St. NE, Staples
229 Central Ave., Long Prairie
320-732-1919 • Toll free: 877-297-1125
*Thomas Sellnow is a Real Property Law Specialist certified by Real Property Section of Minnesota State Bar Association.
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• Real Estate • Business Law
• Title Insurance • Elder Law
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PROFESSIONAL

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MPCA CERTIFIED SEPTIC SYSTEMS
•FREE ESTIMATE FROM DESIGN TO INSTALLATION
•COMPLIANCE INSPECTIONS
Site Prep • Basements • Waterlines • Driveways • Landscaping • Black Dirt • Gravel • Construction & Abandonment of Manure Pits • Fill Dirt
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Phil Bjerga
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Septics • Waterlines • Trenching • Basements • Retaining Walls
Landscaping & Site Preparation • Backhoe & Skid Loader Work
Sewer Pipe Cleaning and Steaming • Custom Pressure Washing
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218-894-3105 SINCE 1958
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Roads • Parking Lots • Site Prep • Gravel • Rock • Black Dirt
Fill • Peat • Ponds • Demolition • Hauling • Landscaping
Recycled Concrete and Asphalt

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2021: The year in review

2021 continued from page 1a

Events, accomplishments

sota Twins.”

April 14: U.S. Representatives Michelle Fischbach and Pete Stauber learned about the needs in Minnesota communities to fill job openings. Area employers, industry specialists and development professionals took part in a workforce roundtable forum at Central Lakes College in Staples on April 8.

April 21: Staples-Motley area residents rejected a bond referendum that would have allowed the school district to invest \$64.4 million in renovations and expansions to the middle/high school and elementary school. Unofficial final vote totals stood at 910 (37 percent) in favor of approval, and 1,555 (63 percent) against. Comparing this referendum to the 2019 referendum, there were fewer overall voters but the percentage of yes and no votes was within one percentage point. In 2019, there were 2,072 votes (64 percent) against and 1,164 (36 percent) in favor.

April 21: The Staples-Motley School District is creating a bigger summer rec and enrichment program for students.

April 28: A championship level golf course with a welcoming, hometown feel. That’s the vision Ernie Rose has for The Vintage golf course in Staples, that he and his wife Katie purchased this winter and continue to work on that vision.

May 5: In 50 years on the Ski Patrol, Tom Danculovich brought hundreds of Staples students and local residents to the slopes to learn how to ski. At a recent ceremony to honor his 50 years, Danculovich was also presented the Critical Care

Award from the National Ski Patrol for saving a life on the slopes. Danculovich got onto the Ski Patrol because of fellow Staples High School teacher Stan Carlson.

May 12: The Staples-Motley School Board held a work session where they heard presentations about the School Improvement Plan, formerly known as ‘Plan B’; and student opportunities for 2021 - 2022.

May 19: The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is awarding the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and project partners, including Central Lakes College, \$3.5 million to implement conservation measures on irrigated lands.

May 26: The Class of 2021 has been through a lot of changes in the last two years. Their junior year was cut short when COVID-19 forced them into distance learning. Coming back for their senior year, societal upheaval was added to the mix and they had to forge a new system of education that combined wearing masks, social awareness and hybrid learning.

May 26: The Staples-Motley Dollars For Scholars handed out \$105,000 in scholarships.

June 2: Three red dresses hang from trees on the west side of Highway 64, not far from Leader. Domita DeWald hung them there. A member of the Dakota tribe, Domita said the red dresses are a symbol of missing and murdered Indigenous women, of which there are thousands each year.

June 16: Staples resident Bryce Williams was recently sentenced to two



Photos of the year - Walking on water

Aug. 18: It appeared as if people were walking on top of the Crow Wing River at Old Wadena Park in rural Staples Aug. 14. With very little rainfall in Minnesota this summer, water levels are low in area lakes and rivers; and the numerous sandbars in the rivers has made it difficult for people to go tubing or canoeing.

years and three months in federal prison, along with a \$12 million fine for his role in the burning down of a Minneapolis Police precinct building

June 16: Dr. John Gorton and his wife Sara “Sally” Gorton, Staples, were recognized for their continued exemplary service to their community as they were inducted into the Minnesota Jaycees Charitable Foundation’s Hall of Leadership.

June 23: Lakewood Health System has announced a collaborative commitment with the Staples-Motley Independent School District on its upcoming activities and wellness facilities addition. Lakewood believes this collaboration will contribute to a healthier community for all and a pooling of resources will result in smart, collective and impactful investments.

July 7: The Staples-Motley School Board approved the \$28 million facilities improvement plan.

July 21: Keith Rollins, Dominick Carlson and Drake Dukowitz placed in the top 100 at the 2021 Minnesota State High School Clay Target League Trap Shooting Championship.

July 28: Several crossroads in Mike Snook’s life could have taken him in the wrong direction that would have ended in disaster. But each time someone or something helped him choose a new path that transformed his life. First it was Jerry and Maryann Riewer who pulled him out of poverty and allowed him to graduate from Staples High School in 1966.

Aug. 4: Six youth group members at Staples Alliance Church, along with four adult leaders, had the opportunity to attend Culture Camp in New York City July 10 - 15.

Aug. 25: Lakewood Health System is partnering with Twin Cities Orthopedics (TCO) to provide world-

class orthopedic care to patients at Lakewood. TCO is a sports medicine partner of the Minnesota Vikings, Twins and St. Paul Saints.

Aug. 25: The Wadena County Attorney’s Office has determined that charges are not warranted in the shooting death of David Savala and Shannon Savala, who were killed in an incident with Wadena County Deputy Troy Mayer and Sebeka Police officer Jason Worm. The incident took place Feb. 27, 2021.

Sept. 8: At the Central Lakes College Field Day lunch on Aug. 27 in Staples, Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture Thom Peterson pointed out that the Minnesota farming community has had a lot of issues to overcome in the past four years. In 2018, the state saw the lowest level of farm income in 20 years. In 2019, we had the wettest year, 2020 saw COVID and 2021 they are dealing with drought.

Sept. 8: Every speaker at the ‘Sota Grown experimental growing pod ribbon cutting praised the extraordinary partnerships that pulled the project together. Multiple agencies in the fields of education, energy and health played a role in the project.

Sept. 22: Staples native Dave Joerger shared his secret to becoming an NBA coach early on in his career. “I had to figure out how to get along with people,” he said at a program titled “Inside the NBA” at Centennial Auditorium in Staples on Sept. 11.

Sept. 22: The Staples Motley Athletic Hall of Fame inducted a new class of athletes, Jerry Cleveland, Randy Frisk, Tony Spandl and Dave Joerger, coaches Ron Beachy, Tom Wolhowe and Mel Nefstead and two teams, the 1982 and 1983 cross country team and 1982 wrestling team.

Sept. 22: The Creating Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) Conference in Staples showed how communities can create spaces that enliven the town and boost economic development. But it takes help from agencies and the community has to intentionally set out to create the spaces.

Sept. 22: The Liquor Depot in Staples is under new ownership, Tom and Jayne Olson, and Jim and Jackie Tyrrell, all Staples-Motley graduates.

Sept. 29: A special reunion received a special tour, when the 1973 Peace Corps cohort to Benin and West Africa met in Staples to tour the Batcher Block Opera House. Staples resident Mark Crampton was one of the Peace Corps volunteers in 1973 and invited the rest of them to Staples.

Oct. 6: By a 3-2 vote, the Staples City Council approved selling the city owned lot on Highway 10 next to Ernie’s Food Market to Lakewood Health System. Both Essentia Health and Lakewood presented their proposals for purchasing the lot and building health care facilities on it.

Oct. 6: “Days Like Smoke - A Minnesota Boyhood” is



Photos of the year

May 26: Derek Orth and Staples Police officer Jamie Pearson watch as a porcupine ambles up a tree in front of Orth Insurance in downtown Staples.



Photos of the year

June 30: The Decker cousins from Motley each took home a balloon creation from the June Fest celebration, the handiwork of balloon artist David Olson (BalloonArtist.net) who entertained children at the event. Pictured from left are Unity, Rachel, Sierra, Renae and Abigail Decker.

a new and unexpected book by author Jon Hassler. The book is a memoir containing stories from his early days growing up in Staples and his later childhood and teen years in Plainview. The new memoir is unexpected because Hassler died in 2008. Afton Press revived the manuscript and lightly edited what Hassler had written.

Oct. 20: A human mandible (lower jaw bone) found in the Crow Wing River has been determined to be of ancient origin, according to the Wadena County Sheriff’s Office. The bone was found in the river adjacent to property owned by Jennifer Barg and her brothers, in Thomastown Township.

Oct. 20: Greg Frisk of Motley, and Todd County farmers Jim and Lynette Waldorf were honored recently by the Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for their conservation efforts in Todd County.

Nov. 3: Region Five Development Commission (R5DC), based in Staples, has received a 2021 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for rural energy and environment planning.

Nov. 10: Sue Nanik, Sourcewell’s Director of Administration, was recognized with an Outstanding Service Award by Minnesota Service Cooperatives.

Nov. 24: The first meeting of the Staples Downtown Development Project was held to help determine what’s needed for downtown Staples to continue to be a center for commerce in the area.

Dec. 1: Voyager Industries has purchased the McKechnie Tooling and Engineering building in Staples, with the intention of expanding their manufacturing lines as early as January. Voyager is headquartered in Brandon, a city west of Alexandria. Their product line includes Yetti ice houses, Bear Track aluminum trailers, Voyager docks, Titan Deck boat docks and Black Line customized recreational vehicles and horse trailers.

Dec. 1: Lakewood Health System contributed nearly \$4.6 million in programs and services in 2020 to benefit the health of its local communities, according to the latest annual community benefit numbers reported to the Minnesota Hospital Association.



Photos of the year

March 24: A green-clad trickster raised a ruckus in the hallways of Staples-Motley Elementary School on March 17, St. Patrick’s Day. The leprechaun stole the hat of Principal Kathy Johnson and a chase ensued. In the end, they made up and became friends. It was noted that Title I/ESL teacher Michelle Karr was missing during the episode.

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